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SEPTEMBER 1993

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From CREWE to ETERNITY

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England's David Platt - the world's most expensive player has been sold for a total of £17.4 million. Not bad for a player who was given a free transfer by Manchester United.

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SEPTEMBER 1993 VOL.33 No.12

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WORLD SOCCER
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As the 1993–94 season kicks–off, **MARK IRWIN** probes the crisis facing English soccer and the serious implications of World Cup failure

Full circle

Can Taylor find a way off the treadmill?

The FA Premier League launches its second season on Saturday, August 14 with English football standing at the crossroads. For while the fortunes of the leading club teams appear to be in the ascendant, the standing of the national side has never been lower.

Even the prospect of a thriving Manchester United dominating the domestic scene with positive, attacking football in front of sell-out 40,000 crowds cannot compare with the irreparable damage which will be inflicted on our game should Graham Taylor's England team fail to qualify for next year's World Cup finals.

Taylor's tired and confused team were the laughing stock of world football when they were comprehensively beaten by America's novices during June's ill-fated US Cup '93. That result, a few days after defeat in a World Cup qualifier in Norway, has left the England manager hanging on to his job by a thread.

Many believe he should have been removed from office a long time ago, and failure to beat Poland at Wembley in the next qualifier on September 8 almost certainly will spell the end of the line for Taylor.

But England have made a habit of scraping their way out of the tightest corners and I still expect to see them fluke their way through to US '94. Once there, however, don't bet on their going any further than the first round.

Certainly the performances of the national team have failed to reflect the optimistic conclusions to be drawn from the first season of the Premier League, a so-called soccer revolution which turned out to be little more than a new way of carving up the cake in favour of the leading clubs.

Even the success of last season's championship battle owed more to the positive attitude of managers such as Alex Ferguson, Ron Atkinson, Mike Walker and Kenny Dalglish than to a breakaway Superleague which was supposed to change the whole face of English football.

And with other managers such as Gerry Francis, Glenn Hoddle, Kevin Keegan, Trevor Francis and Ossie Ardiles all making Premier League plans for the coming months, that positive trend looks set to continue.

Yet the fact remains that United, Villa, Norwich and Blackburn provided attacking, entertaining football in spite of the system, not because of it. It was no coincidence that United finally ended their 27-year wait for the League Championship in a season when they made early exits from all

Others, most notably Sheffield Wednesday, failed to reap the rewards their efforts deserved simply because the demands of a 63-match campaign ultimately favour strong, defensively-minded teams like double Wembley winners Arsenal.

The success of George Graham's side will encourage those clubs who lack the financial muscle to compete with the Liverpools and Manchester Uniteds and so develop their physical muscles to retain their place in the top 22.

For while Arsenal are right up there in the major league when it comes to cash in the bank, their "No frills, no risks and no prisoners" style is more often to be found down among the sides scrapping for survival.

With a guaranteed slice of BSkyB's £304 million TV deal, plus the added income from lucrative new sponsorship with Carling, it is hardly surprising that teams live in such fear of relegation from the Premier League.

Manchester United are financially secure for the next decade on the back of one successful year in the new set-up. Yet until the Premier League is reduced from 22 to 18 clubs, even a club of United's resources will find it very difficult to make their mark in the Champions' Cup, which now involves the finalists in 12 games.

Just as damaging to their European ambitions is the fact that less than half of their championship-winning team are English. Having the money to buy just about any British player they fancy is all very well, but the arrival of Irishman Roy Keane isn't going to improve their European prospects.

Aston Villa will face similar problems in the UEFA Cup while Norwich, with all due respect, just do not have the class to be regarded as serious contenders.

Arsenal, with an entire team of Englishmen, should represent our best chance of European success next year. But while they can get by with a lack of flair in domestic competitions, the Cup-Winners' Cup could expose the limitations of the Gunners' strategy.

Which is where we come full circle. For it is Arsenal who supply more players than any other club to the current England squad and it is England's lack of flair which is at the heart of all their problems.

Obviously it's wrong to suggest that the Arsenal players are the cause of all England's ills and that one look away from Highbury would cure the patient. Yet it certainly doesn't help anyone when half the team are drilled in physical, direct football while the rest are trying to play a patient passing game.

Taylor, after three years in the job, still has not settled on his tactics nor his strongest line-up. Formations and personnel change drastically from match to match. Is it surprising the players look as though they don't know what they're supposed to be doing? Does anyone?

English club soccer probably offers more variety of styles than any other league. That is its great appeal and one of the reasons that attendances remain comparatively high.

It is also the greatest headache for a national team manager trying to produce a team of players all at ease with each other and pulling in the same direction.

As the new season nears, the inescapable conclusion is that while the green shoots of recovery have taken root in the Premier League, at international level the depression continues.

TAYLOR'S ENGLAND RECORD

P	W	D	L	F	A
35	16	13	6	52	29

ENGLAND DEFEATS UNDER TAYLOR

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
11.9.91	Germany (f)	Wembley	L 0-1
17.6.92	Sweden (EC)	Stockholm	L 1-2
09.9.92	Spain (f)	Santander	L 0-1
02.6.93	Norway (WC)	Oslo	L 0-2
09.6.93	US (USC)	Boston	L 0-2
19.6.93	Germany (USC)	Detroit	L 1-2

Key: f = friendly, EC = European Championship, WC = World Cup qualifier, USC = US Cup '93.

WORLD SOCCER'S 15-POINT PLAN TO

SAVE OUR SOCCER

WORLD SOCCER canvassed our correspondents worldwide for their suggestions on how to improve English football. Here, along with the pros and cons of each idea, are the 15 most commonly perceived faults of our national game.

WS PROPOSAL 1

Impose a complete transfer ban during the course of the season.

FOR: This would encourage greater loyalty by forcing players to honour their contracts. It also would provide greater continuity for clubs and supporters while stopping teams from buying their way out of trouble.

AGAINST: There is a danger of infringing players' freedom of choice and movement, and a transfer ban would damage the ability of financially troubled clubs to raise vital resources at short notice.

WS PROPOSAL 2

Introduce a fixed system for the control of transfer fees, based on players' age, experience and current contract.

FOR: Bring an end to the inflated transfer fees which alienate supporters and damage the game's credibility.

AGAINST: Large transfer fees simply keep the cash flowing within the game and out of the hands of the tax man. Many smaller clubs would go to the wall if they were no longer able to make a quick killing in the transfer market.

WS PROPOSAL 3

Summer soccer.

FOR: Playing on firm, grassy pitches would raise the level of skill. The warmer weather might encourage more supporters to attend.

AGAINST: Summer soccer is simply too great a departure from a long-standing tradition. Football is a winter sport. Differing weather and pitch conditions are all part of the challenge. Attendances would drop during holiday periods.

WS PROPOSAL 4

Introduce a four-week mid-season break.

FOR: A winter break would give the overworked British players the chance of a much-needed rest, allowing them to recover from the stresses and strains which ultimately lead to long-term damage. It also would avoid the worst of the winter weather when many games are put off.

AGAINST: The British weather is not bad enough nor predictable enough to warrant a mid-season break. A four-week lay-off could turn into seven or more weeks if the bad weather came at the wrong time. Fans would get out of the habit of going to football. Players would rather play than train, which they still would have to do during the break.

WS PROPOSAL 5

A complete overhaul of the British system of coaching.

FOR: The British coaching system, particularly at youth level, is lagging years behind the leading European nations. Even the Americans have a better system for the development of emerging young talent. The lack of emphasis on skill and ball control is sadly evident at the very highest levels of the British game as a result of blindly following the wrong route for years.

AGAINST: There is no such thing in football as a right and wrong way of doing things. What some critics might perceive as a weakness in British football, others consider a strength. Clubs should be left alone to run their coaching departments to suit their own requirements.

WS PROPOSAL 6

Introduce a rule forbidding anyone from becoming a Premier League manager without specific coaching and business qualifications.

FOR: Many of today's managers seem to get their jobs as a result of who they know rather than what they know. A formal managerial apprenticeship would prevent unsuitable candidates from gaining power on the strength of little more than a respectable playing career.

AGAINST: English football should be doing all it can to speed up the graduation to power of managers such as Dalglish, Hoddle, Francis and Souness. These men all went straight into management from a successful playing career and are proof that a working knowledge of the game is of more value than formal qualifications.

WS PROPOSAL 7

Shared stadia.

FOR: By pooling their resources, neighbouring clubs could raise the cash to upgrade their facilities to meet the demands of the Taylor Report. Running two or more stadia in the same city is not financially viable.

Start a school revolution says Lineker

FORMER England captain Gary Lineker, now playing in Japan, feels that the English game needs a radical change in schools.

"I don't think there is too much wrong with the underlying game there, though we play too much football, so we always have injury problems," he says.

"Our game is too fast and too physical — which comes from schoolboy stuff really — and too direct.

"Until someone at the top changes the way that the game is played at the school level, our game will always be quicker and less technically sound than the rest of the world.

"Kids of eight and nine play on big pitches with big goals, and the only way that little kids can get down the other end of the field is to kick the ball as far as they can.

"We could drastically improve the standards of English football immediately if we made small children play on small pitches with small goals, so that they can be in the vicinity of each other and learn to pass the ball to each other instead of having to hoof it."

Lineker adds: "In the old days we used to have lots of skilful players, but that was because there wasn't so much organised football or pitches to play on.

"Kids used to play in the street or backyard or garden and throw jerseys down to mark the goal and they learned dribbling, and passing.

"They should ban playing on big pitches until children get to 13 or 14."

'Even Ghana leave us behind'

SIMON STAINROD spent the bulk of his 17-year playing career in English football, at a variety of levels, with QPR, Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday, Sheffield United and Oldham.

So he is well qualified to offer his views on the state of the game in his home country.

"The big mistake was made about 10 years ago," he says in the broad Yorkshire accent which has remained unaffected by his spells in England, France and Scotland, where he is currently player-manager at Dundee.

"A lot of managers compromised their principles, and went in for the long ball game. It's the easy way to generate success, but skill and entertainment are generally sacrificed.

"It would have been better to have concentrated on teaching players basic techniques to improve their game, but results were regarded as being of paramount importance and the percentage game has become more popular with coaches and managers.

"Graham Taylor is now suffering from what has happened over the past ten years and is being burdened by neglect. I admire managers like Alex Ferguson who have refused to abandon their philosophies — if there were more like him then England could produce players such as Ryan Giggs.

"It's a grass-roots problem which needs to be addressed radically. We need to get back to basics if we want recognition at international level.

"This has become more apparent than ever while watching the World Youth Championships and the Copa America.

"Even Third World countries like Ghana are leaving us behind in terms of mastery of the game's basic techniques.

"We need to sort it out soon."

KEIR RADNEDGE explains the help a court case has given to the game

Sugar service

The financial cat is out of the transfer bag

TERRY VENABLES'S decision to go to court at all — more than its outcome in his fight for Tottenham — could prove one of the most momentous in modern English football history.

Venables had clashed with Tottenham's chairman, millionaire computer boss Alan Sugar (left).

And Sugar prepared for the court battle by presenting certain evidence for formal, public gaze, for the first time . . . evidence of the financial corner-cutting which had been the subject only of whisper.

For years the English game has accepted that transfer transactions can be used to hide perks for players and managers.

It is not illegal for managers, and even chairmen, to receive a percentage from a transfer fee. In industry that would be considered a normal performance bonus for a senior management figure.

But where that income is hidden from the tax authorities — either by payments in cash or through other transactions — then the law is being flouted. Thus Venables, whatever the pros and cons of his High Court battle with Sugar, has — along the way — done the English game an enormous service.

Now there is no excuse for the authorities to turn a blind eye, and the Football Association have begun an inquiry into payments to managers and players' agents in transfer dealings.

It's an inquiry which could run and run.

Sugar's revelations centred on one particular example, last year's £2 million transfer of striker Teddy Sheringham from Nottingham Forest to Tottenham.

Sugar claimed in court that Venables had told him the then Forest manager, Brian Clough, liked "a bung" (i.e. a cash sum) to complete a transfer deal.

The sum in this case was £50,000 which, according to Sugar, was handed over in a brown paper bag at a motorway service station.

Clough categorically denied the story, which emerged under the protection of legal privilege. But one way or another, the financial cat is out of the transfer bag.

In the old days corruption meant pound notes stuffed into boots to

AGAINST: Supporters are too accustomed to opposing their local rivals to tolerate shared facilities, particularly if it involved moving to the "other" team's ground. Purpose-built stadia would be a waste of money if there already are two perfectly adequate venues.

WS PROPOSAL 8

Full-time, professional referees.

FOR: FIFA firmly believe that full-time officials will improve the standard of refereeing by allowing them closer contact with the players to discuss problems.

AGAINST: Referees are strongly opposed to such proposals. As part-time officials, they can pursue a secure career elsewhere. There is no longer-term security for a professional ref suddenly forced to retire at 48. Refs also argue that being full-time would not alter their decisions.

WS PROPOSAL 9

Referees should be free to talk to the media.

FOR: Too many controversial decisions currently go unexplained because referees are scared to clarify the situation for fear of censure from the FA.

AGAINST: **Referees already are obliged to leave an answer with a club official if there are queries regarding decisions. Such a rule would place unnecessary pressure on officials fearful of being misquoted.**

WS PROPOSAL 10

Open dressing-rooms to the media, giving journalists free access to players.

FOR: While players gain large fees from Fleet Street papers for "exclusive" interviews, they have to make controversial comments and risk disrepute charges. Giving all journalists equal access to the players would end that risk factor and give greater publicity to the game.

AGAINST: Footballers are naturally suspicious of the media. Opening the dressing-rooms to journalists would force players into making a comment on controversial incidents when things might be better left unsaid.

WS PROPOSAL 11

Introduce a licencing system for players' agents.

FOR: At the moment there are no controls governing the capability or suitability of players' agents. Many naive young players are handing over sizeable percentages of their wage packet for very little in return. Most players do require some form of representation and not all agents are the unscrupulous spivs they often are portrayed to be. Those who are reputable would have no objections to such a licencing system.

AGAINST: Maybe an agent could suggest an argument against this proposal. *WORLD SOCCER* can't think of any.

WS PROPOSAL 12

Fewer teams in each division of the Premier and Football Leagues.

FOR: Players, managers and supporters all agree that our top teams play too much football. Quality has been damaged by quantity as successful teams are punished by a 60-game schedule. Injuries never get a proper chance to heal and recession-hit supporters simply cannot afford to keep forking out.

AGAINST: The gate money generated by those extra four or five homes games could mean the difference between solvency and bankruptcy for many clubs. Too many are living on a knife-edge to risk any possible loss of turnstile revenue.

WS PROPOSAL 13

Ban all Premier League clubs from the Football League Cup.

FOR: Such a ban would reduce the number of games facing the top players. And as all Premier League clubs have technically resigned from the Football League, why should they be allowed to compete in it?

AGAINST: Lower clubs dream of a possible tie against Manchester United or Liverpool. One trip to Anfield or Old Trafford can set them up financially for the year. By removing the glamour clubs from the competition, you also lose the interest of major sponsorship from such as Coca-Cola.

WS PROPOSAL 14

Prohibit all players who withdraw from an international squad through injury from playing from their clubs the following weekend.

FOR: Many top teams order their best players to feign injury for "lesser" internationals in order to keep them fresh for club commitments. By imposing a six-day ban on all players unfit for their country, clubs would no longer benefit from damaging the interests of the national team.

AGAINST: Players nursing a slight injury risk greater damage forcing themselves through a midweek match when a rest could cure the problem. Besides, as clubs pay a player's wages, they should have first choice on his commitments.

WS PROPOSAL 15

Introduce UEFA's restrictions on foreigners to all Premier League games.

FOR: The more Englishmen playing in the Premier League, the better that would be for the England team. If such restrictions were in place, potential England players such as Andy Townsend, Andy Goram, Roy Wegerle and Terry Phelan might have been dissuaded from declaring for other countries. The top teams also would be better prepared for European competition.

AGAINST: Such a move would actually damage the interests of English football in the long run. Clubs sides would suffer if restricted in the number of Scots, Irish and Welsh they could field. Lowering the standard of the Premier League is no long-term solution to the England problem.

AIR YOUR VIEWS . . .

WHAT do you think of ***WORLD SOCCER'S*** proposals for English football? Write and tell us which proposals you would like to see introduced, and those you would like to steer clear of. We will publish the results in a future issue.

Send your views to ***WORLD SOCCER*, England Proposals,** 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

Legal eagle . . . lawyer Mel Stein (centre) with Paul Gascoigne and Chris Waddle.

circumvent amateurism restrictions. Now that boot has grown out of all proportion — and the notes are no longer in units of £1, but £100s.

The Inland Revenue has launched a massive investigation. The accounts of 130 professional League and non-League clubs have been examined. Any malpractice and the authorities will act.

In 1967 Peterborough were relegated for making illegal payments to players. In 1968 Port Vale were expelled from the League (though subsequently re-elected) for the same reason. Sunderland, Leyton Orient, Fulham and Wimbledon have been fined, too. But the most noted case so far was three years ago when Swindon were denied promotion to the top division after admitting making cash-free payments to players.

Brian Hillier, the chairman, and accountant Vivien Farrar were both jailed for defrauding the Inland Revenue.

But their offences were comparatively "straight" compared with the latest claims.

Mel Stein, the lawyer who acts for Paul Gascoigne, says some managers will not do transfer business with some agents because they do not receive "kick-backs".

Stein, who also has Chris Waddle and Alan Shearer on his books, says: "There is enormous corruption in the game. There are too many vested interests where transfers are concerned."

David Kohler, chairman of Luton Town, a club recently fined more than £100,000 for financial malpractice, says: "Corruption in football? That's 100 per cent right. Football is bent from the top downwards.

"There is dodgy dealing. A lot of this paper-bagging."

What are the scams? Here are just a few . . .

● *A manager imposes a "tame" agent on a player, then manager and agent split the transfer commission.*

●*Secret bonuses or salary top-ups are presented in accounts as monthly expenses to non-existent scouts abroad.*

●*A club may buy a new player's house for an unrealistically inflated sum.*

●*Some players are paid through tax-free overseas accounts financed either by cash paid overseas or through foreign stocks or gold market dealing.*

Controversial move . . . Sheringham.

Then there are the agents themselves. The FA are now investigating claims that the moves to England of some Australian players, including Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, skated round the regulations with the "free cash" being used as a commission source along the way.

Not that the English are alone in such "Spanish practices."

Several Sunday newspapers in England have published startling claims about a Norwegian agent, Rune Hauge.

The allegation — denied by Hauge — is that he makes his profit by buying a player from Norway or Sweden at one sum, selling him to England at a higher price, and pocketing the difference.

Deals in which Hauge has been concerned include . . .

● *Pal Lydersen, sold by Start of Norway for £220,000 but bought by Arsenal for £500,000.*

●*Stig-Inge Bjornebye (above), sold by Rosenborg of Norway for £440,000 but bought by Liverpool for £660,000.*

●*Kare Ingebrigsten, sold by Rosenborg for £320,000 but bought by Manchester City for £550,000 (and now, curiously, sacked).*

Hauge says: "I have nothing to be ashamed of. My conscience is clear."

His offshore company, Interclub Limited, however, regularly collected six-figure sums through these transfers. How much commission and expenses may be justified is just one of the matters into which the FA and the Inland Revenue are inquiring.

Rumour and speculation have reached such a pitch that stories are even circulating about one club "laundering" cash from the notorious Great Train Robbery of the early 1960s.

True or false, the Great Transfer Scam may be just about to hit the buffers.

Now it's our turn

Reid plots a City repeat of '68

THE spotlight will be on Manchester United during the new season, but don't tell Manchester City that they are the poor neighbours. They won't hear a word of it.

Manager Peter Reid is confident that his club are about to get their share of the trophies.

"Our fans obviously want to see us winning everything and finishing above United, and I can understand the outside world trying to look down upon us," he says.

"United are a great club and have deserved their success.

"But don't look down upon City. We're also a great club in our own right. Manchester is a big city with room for two major clubs.

"Our fans have responded well, as they usually do. Season tickets have been going exceptionally well. That reflects their loyalty.

"Our home form was very poor as well. But those are things we can put right. The table never lies so it will be foolish of me to say that everything is great. Of course improvements are needed. We have a good side with some excellent players but we need to stabilise and get some depth.

"Our squad is just not big enough. Some of our rivals have much bigger pools of players and perhaps will not miss key men as much as we will.

"I'm not going to say that money is no object, but we're prepared to spend to get the right players.

"The transfer market is very odd at the moment. Quality players are not becoming available. When they do there is a pack of clubs after them and the fees start to rise.

"Even in lower divisions the starting price is £1 million for what is probably only an average player."

Some say that the new Premier League and the dictatorial TV coverage have contributed a great deal towards the spiralling costs of transfers and wages. Reid, however, remains fairly uncritical of today's set-up.

"The Premier League has provided a new dimension, lifted the standard and increased the profile of football in this country.

"I'm not happy about playing on Fridays, Sundays or Mondays. For me football is a Saturday game which can also be played midweek. I don't like the staggering of fixtures over a weekend.

"But I'm happy with the actual TV coverage. It also has helped with the image of the game and widened its appeal as well as pumping in a lot of cash."

Ground improvements at Maine Road continue and next April will be a major step, when the refurbishment of the Kippax Stand gets under way.

Within the next two years Manchester City will have one of the best grounds in Britain, and if Reid has his way they will be enlarging the trophy cabinet.

At the moment there is a great wealth of talent, with Gary Flitcroft and Mike Sheron continuing to develop. The latest likely lad is John Sharpe, who has come through his early training and has been offered a contract. United's Lee Sharpe is his brother.

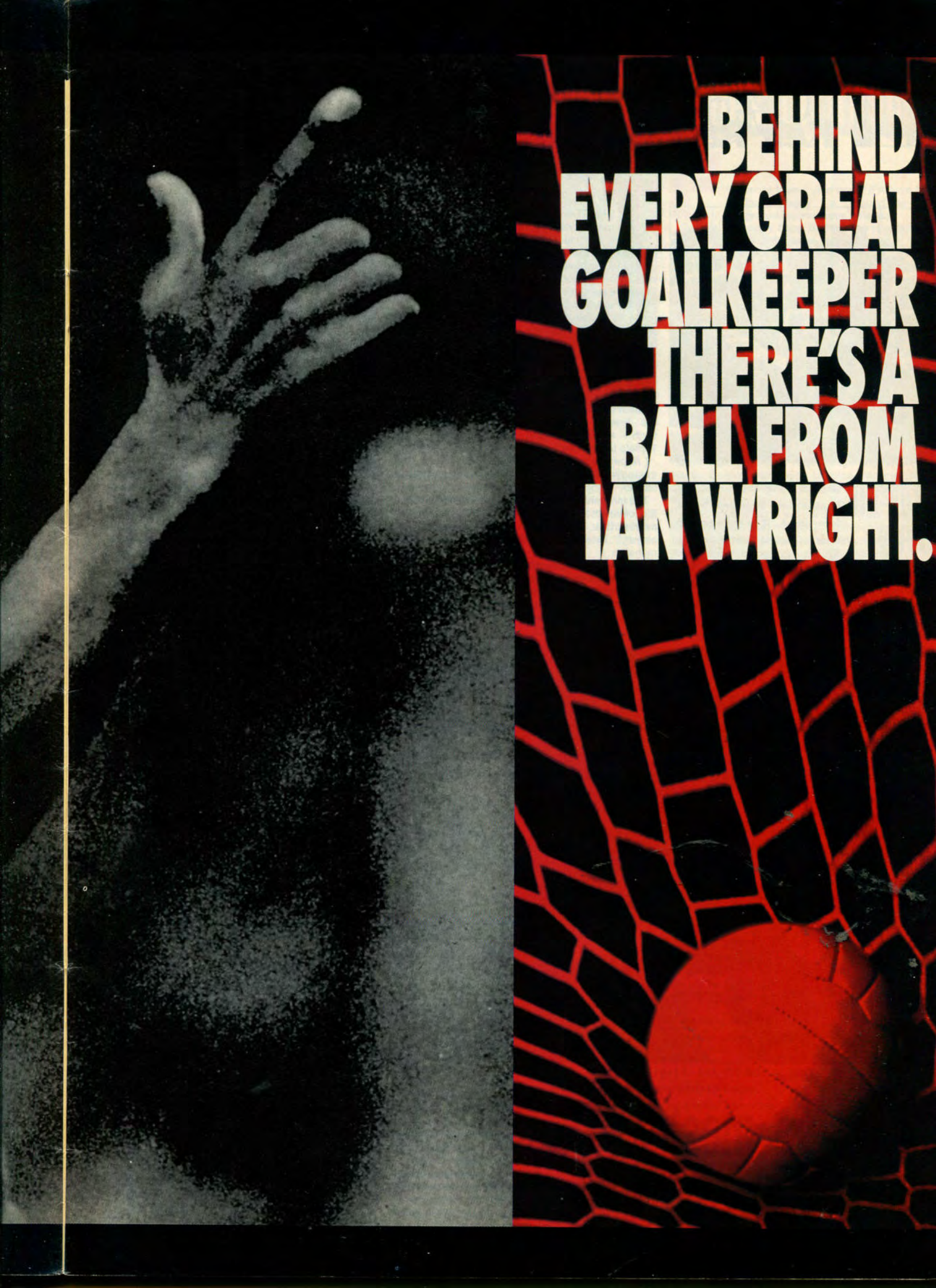
"The average age of the team has lowered considerably — I'm beginning to feel like their dad," says Reid, who still put in some excellent performances last term.

Reid is nothing if not positive. City have not won the League title for 25 years. United won it in 1967, and City bounced back the next season to take their turn. Is history about to repeat itself?

"Yes, please," says Reid. "If we win the title and they're second, that's fine by me. I really believe we stand a chance of doing something special this season."

BERNARD BALE

NIKE


BEHIND
EVERY GREAT
GOALKEEPER
THERE'S A
BALL FROM
IAN WRIGHT.

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

Bernard Tapie . . . is he involved?

THE START of January is the time most people make their New Year resolutions.

Not much point doing that in football. By that time it's too late. The season is halfway over.

Instead, the best time for football resolutions is the start of the season.

I have a resolution. Just one, for everybody in the game in Britain, Europe and the world: tell the truth.

I hope we hear the truth about the Marseille match-fixing allegations; the truth about the extent of such corruption within the French game; the truth about Bernard Tapie's involvement or absence of involvement.

I hope we hear the truth about transfers, from managers and agents. After all, what is there to hide?

The moment a reporter asks the pinpoint question, it's clear the story is out. Say: "No comment," maybe. But: "I've no interest in such-and-such a player," indicates merely the stupidity of the manager.

Also, let managers not insult the intelligence of their public. Don't hide behind that boring, old lie: "I was unsighted at that moment."

Sometimes I wonder why managers bother to attend matches . . . they see so little of what goes on. Hardly surprising then, that they make such weird judgments when it comes to buying and selling players and selecting teams. Crystal clear, isn't it, when you think about? Most of every 90 minutes they have their eyes shut.

Come on chaps . . . tell the truth

I hope we hear the truth from television commentators and their analysts. I don't want to hear another old pal's apology of the "he'll be disappointed with that" variety when the centre-forward blasts over the bar from two yards out.

The centre-forward is being paid wonderfully well to put the ball in the net not into the crowd.

Television commentators are the eyes and voices of their licence-paying, advert-funding, subscribing public, not apologists for their chums out on the pitch.

While discussing the media, I want to read reality in my daily papers. Facts, not the fiction which fuels circulation wars.

Finally, I hope to see a wonderful World Cup in the United States next summer. I hope to see great football, daring tactics and spectacular goals. And, to sum up, we all know what happens to New Year resolutions, don't we?

Way-off Gerry

WORLD Cup interest in Boston next year will be at fever-pitch. It is guaranteed after a recent article in *The Boston Herald*.

The writer, one Gerry Callaghan, was so hilariously way off-beam in his criticism of soccer that every single reader will want to see it for themselves. Nice one, Gerry!

Paul Gascoigne . . . a one-man circus.

Make the most of the maestro

PAUL GASCOIGNE resembles a one-man circus. Elsewhere in this issue we review Gazza's value to England's World Cup effort. In the meantime, what about Gazza the centrepiece of Lazio's new club season?

Courtesy of the annual Makita Tournament, staged at White Hart Lane, his old hunting ground, we had a peep. And both liked and loathed what we saw.

One moment he stalks the centre of the ring, directing operations with all the arrogance of the most haughty Master of Ceremonies; another moment he is the clown, swapping industrial insults at 40 yards with a loudmouth in the crowd.

But most of the time he is the high-wire act; the man flying through the match without a safety net. He inspires an awful fascination. Fans go along almost in expectation of seeing him teeter and tumble.

Against Tottenham, in Lazio's 3-2 semi-final defeat in the Makita, around 50 minutes passed before we saw a real contest. Gascoigne was warmly applauded on his pre-match introduction and his artistry drew a response which was more concert hall than soccer crowd.

Tottenham swept into a 2-0 interval lead. Suddenly, to Spurs' fans, Gazza didn't matter any more. When he was brought down in the 51st minute for a penalty, he was even booed for the first time.

Almost an hour into the game and Gazza had been identified as one of the enemy. The realisation injected new spice into the action. Darren Anderton shot Spurs 3-1 ahead to provoke a retaliatory sight of the real Gazza: a solo jaunt from the left, then a body-swerve in front of two mesmerised defenders and a right-foot shot steered up into the far corner.

Lazio were still 3-2 down at full-time, when Gascoigne berated referee Stephen Lodge for refusing to add time for injuries. The referee's sin of omission was to deny Gascoigne his opportunity of a grandstand finish.

Gascoigne also looked a fully-integrated member of the Lazio team, rather than last season's visiting Englishman with a wonky knee. He snapped, without a shadow of concern, into early tackles with Anderton and Vinny Samways, and delivered challenging through passes which, in the old days, he would never have wasted on British players with less technical expertise.

Midway through the second half Spurs and Lazio players exchanged fouls. Gascoigne nagged the referee over Spurs' misdemeanour. Coach Doug Livermore shouted from the bench: "Gazza! What about the other one?"

Gascoigne turned, tugged at his light blue shirt and shouted back: "Lazio!" He knows where his loyalties lie.

What else he may have learned remains wide open to doubt. If you get the opportunity to watch Gazza in action, take it. I have a nagging suspicion he won't be around at the top level for long.

The Copa America . . . out of step with the rest of the world.

Times of trouble

FOR more than a year now FIFA have been talking about a round-the-world integrated international calendar.

General secretary Sepp Blatter was preparing for another round of talks when last I met him.

"It's a very ambitious project," he said, "and can only be carried through with the understanding of all the clubs and federations involved and with a lot of discipline. But I believe it can work."

Yet how can it work when confederations, such as the South American, insist that their continental championship (the Copa America) shall take place every two years in the same year as the "local" World Cup qualifiers?

Answer: it can't. But then, the South Americans have already sold their television for the next few tournaments so, financially, they are locked into the sort of schedule the European lobby will reject out of hand.

Perhaps FIFA should consider a two-stage approach. Stage one would be the integration of a north/south schedule. Thus Europe and Africa; thus North, Central and South America. The next World Cup qualifying tournament could be integrated thus. But Asia is something else.

Asian football runs not north-south but west-east. Time zones and climatic differences present apparently insurmountable barriers. Unless, that is, Asia volunteers regional splits based on the Middle East, the sub-continent and the Far East. Possible but a negotiator's nightmare.

Perhaps FIFA should use their command of the World Cup qualifying competition to impose a solution.

Check first

THE Home Office, with the eager support of the players' union, the PFA, are getting tough with foreign players in England.

The non-European Community players must be regular internationals and regular first-teamers.

That is one way to tighten up on a string of comparative nobodies and is a subject, as regular readers know, about which we have long been concerned.

The existence of a trade in player imports does not greatly worry me. After all, if you or I enjoy freedom of movement of labour within the EC why should it be denied to footballers?

My grouse has been less with the players and more with agents who lie about their men's international status.

If clubs took that logical first step of checking for themselves, then the task of the Home Office work permit department and the PFA "police" would be vastly simplified.

Boots wanted

PAUL INCE needs your help. Not in captaining England (well, he didn't mention it) but in providing kit for underprivileged children and young people.

He tells us that, from August 2 to 22, the National Association of Boys Clubs are organising a Boot Amnesty in conjunction with retailers Intersport and manufacturers adidas.

If you're buying a new pair of adidas boots take your old ones into your local Intersport branch and — whatever the make — there is a free gift on offer . . . plus the knowledge that your old boots will be put to invaluable use by someone else.

One-eyed Mark

MARK BOSNICH, Aston Villa's goalkeeper banned for two English league matches because he quit the Australian World Cup squad, muttered about taking legal action claiming "restraint of trade."

How one-eyed can you get? Seems to me it was Bosnich who restrained his own trade in the first place.

NOW, you can help us. American Airlines are running a promotional competition built around the selection of an all-time World Cup XI.

WORLD SOCCER has a vote. But we want YOU, our readers, to fill in the form. Here's what you do: From among the following World Cup heroes, choose the requisite number of names per role. Send back your entry, as soon as possible, to World Cup XI, *WORLD SOCCER*, 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

Here are the names:

Manager *(choose one)*: Beckenbauer, Bilardo, Menotti, Pozzo, Zagalo.

Goalkeeper *(one)*: Banks, Gilmar, Maier, Yashin, Zoff.

Right-back *(one)*: Andrade, Carlos Alberto, D. Santos.

Centre-backs *(two)*: Beckenbauer, Moore, Passarella, Scirea.

Left-back *(one)*: Breitner, Brehme, Facchetti, Krol, N. Santos.

Midfield *(four)*: Bozsik, R. Charlton, Didi, Gerson, Maradona, Masopust, Matthaus, Neeskens, Platini, Rivelino, Schiaffino, Varela, F. Walter, Zito.

Strikers *(two)*: Cruyff, Eusebio, Fontaine, Garrincha, Jairzinho, Kempes, Kocsis, Meazza, Muller, Pele, Puskas, Rossi, Leonidas.

Three further points:

First, if you wish, for example, to play Garrincha wide on the right in midfield, then do so. Vary the midfielders and strikers for balance, as you prefer.

Secondly, remember: players must be chosen on the basis of their form and achievements *IN THE WORLD CUP*. The rest of their career is immaterial.

Thirdly, we need your entries before the end of August. If you haven't made up your mind before then, forget it!

We will, of course, publish your chosen team and there will be prize for the reader we select who got it right. Thanks for your help!

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Record-breaker Platt

DAVID PLATT'S move from Juventus to Sampdoria elevates him to the position of most expensive footballer in the world . . . a staggering £17.4million.

Details of the actual cost of the transfer conflict — ranging from £3.5million to £5.2million — but, either way, Platt's total transfer value eclipses the £13million Milan paid Torino for Gianluigi Lentini last summer.

Not bad for a player who was once given a free transfer by Manchester United! Platt's progress since then has been from Crewe to Aston Villa to Bari to Juventus and now to Sampdoria. We hope he has better luck than Lentini, who is now recovering from severe head injuries sustained in a road accident a few days before the new Italian season begins.

Platt will be joined at Sampdoria by Ruud Gullit, a summer signing from Milan. Des Walker, however, has left the Genoese club and returned home to England, joining ambitious Sheffield Wednesday for £2.7million.

There was another record-breaking move in Italy, with Luca Marchegiani's transfer from Torino to Lazio making him the world's most expensive goalkeeper at £6.5million.

Other moves of note include:

● Karlheinz Riedle . . . Lazio to Borussia Dortmund. At £4.5million Riedle becomes the most expensive purchase by a Bundesliga club. The previous high was Dortmund's signing of Matthias Sammer from Inter for £3.2million.

● Kiril Metkov . . . CSKA Sofia to Gamba Osaka. He will be the first Bulgarian to play in Japan's J.League.

● Julio Dely Valdez . . . Nacional (Uruguay) to Cagliari. Dely Valdez will be the first Panamanian to play in the Serie A.

● Duncan Ferguson . . . Dundee United to Rangers. At £4million Ferguson becomes Britain's most expensive domestic footballer.

● Marius Lacatus . . . Romanian striker has moved from Spanish club Oviedo to UNAM of Mexico.

● Rafael Alkorta . . . signed by Real Madrid for £2million, the highest fee in Athletic Bilbao's history.

● Roy Keane . . . Nottingham Forest to Manchester United for £3.75million, making him the most expensive signing between two English clubs.

● Ajax Amsterdam have brought three foreign-based Dutch players home: Frank Rijkaard from Milan, Peter Van Vossen from Anderlecht, and Wilbert Suvrijn from Montpellier.

Big money . . . Platt's latest move means that £17.4million has been spent on him.

Big money . . . Alkorta's move to Real Madrid has brought Athletic Bilbao a record fee.

Big money . . . Marchegiani is now the world's most expensive goalkeeper.

1993 SUMMER TRANSFERS
(Loan moves in italics)

Player	*P*	*From*	*To*
Juan **AGUILERA**	M	Atletico Madrid	Tenerife
Jorg **ALBERTZ**	M	Fortuna Dusseldorf	Hamburg SV
ALFREDO Aguado	M	Atletico Madrid	La Coruna
Rafael **ALKORTA**	D	Athletic Bilbao	Real Madrid
Massimiliano **ALLEGRI**	F	Pescara	Cagliari
Manuel **AMOROS**	D	Marseille	Lyon
Kennet **ANDERSSON**	F	Mechelen	Lille
Philippe **ANZIANI**	F	Toulon	Martigues
Luis **ARTIME**	F	Belgrano Cordoba (Arg)	America (Col)
Abel **BALBO**	F	Udinese	AS Roma
Tal **BANIN**	M	Hapoel Haifa	Cannes
Peter **BEARDSLEY**	F	Everton	Newcastle United
Dennis **BERGKAMP**	F	Ajax Amsterdam	Internazionale
Thomas **BERTHOLD**	D	Bayern Munich	VfB Stuttgart
Vladimir **BESTCHASTNIKH**	M	Moscow Spartak	Werder Bremen
BISMARCK	F	Vasco da Gama	Verdy (Jap)
Laurent **BLANC**	D	Napoli	Saint Etienne
Luc **BORRELLI**	G	Toulon	Paris SG
Joel **BOSSIS**	M	Le Mans	Martigues
Andy **BREHME**	D	Real Zaragoza	Kaiserslautern
Pasquale **BRUNO**	D	Torino	Fiorentina
Gabriel **CALDERON**	F	Caen	Lausanne
Colin **CALDERWOOD**	D	Swindon Town	Tottenham
Jose **CAMINERO**	D	Real Valladolid	Atletico Madrid
CARECA	F	Napoli	Kashiwa Reysol (Jap)
CASAGRANDE	F	Torino	Flamengo
CELSO Luis Gomes	M	Atletico Taquaritinga	Shimizu S Pulse (Jap)
Bent **CHRISTENSEN**	F	Schalke 04	Olympiakos
Nigel **CLOUGH**	F	Nottingham Forest	Liverpool
Jose **COBOS**	D	Strasbourg	Paris SG
Stan **COLLYMORE**	F	Southend United	Nottingham Forest
Colin **COOPER**	D	Millwall	Nottingham Forest
Massimo **CRIPPA**	M	Napoli	Parma
Brian **DEANE**	F	Sheffield United	Leeds United
Julio **DELY VALDEZ**	F	Nacional (Uru)	Cagliari
Marcel **DIB**	M	Monaco	Bordeaux
Roberto **DI MATTEO**	D	FC Aarau	Lazio
Fabrizio **DI MAURO**	M	Fiorentina	Lazio
Igor **DOBROVOLSKI**	M	Marseille	Moscow Dynamo
DONATO	D	Atletico Madrid	La Coruna
Jason **DOZZELL**	M	Ipswich Town	Tottenham
Peter **DUBOVSKY**	F	Slovan Bratislava	Real Madrid
Daniel **DUTUEL**	M	Auxerre	Marseille
Mustapha **EL HADDAOUI**	F	Lens	Angers
Johnny **EKSTROM**	F	IFK Gothenburg	Reggiana
Marco **ETCHEVERRY**	F	Bolivar (Bol)	Colo Colo (Chi)
Alberigo **EVANI**	M	Milan	Sampdoria
Patrice **EYRAUD**	M	Toulon	Metz
Derek **FERGUSON**	M	Hearts	Sunderland
Duncan **FERGUSON**	F	Dundee United	Rangers
Kader **FERHAOUI**	M	Montpellier	Cannes
John **FILAN**	G	Sydney Budapest (Aus)	Cambridge United
Valerio **FIORI**	G	Lazio	Cagliari
Jan **FJORTOFT**	F	Rapid Wien	Swindon Town
Youssouf **FOFANA**	F	Monaco	Bordeaux
Andrea **FORTUNATO**	D	Genoa	Juventus
Enzo **FRANCESCOLI**	F	Cagliari	Torino
Pascal **FUGIER**	D	Lyon	Marseille
Jan **FURTOK**	F	Hamburg SV	Eintracht Frankfurt
Paulo **FUTRE**	F	Benfica	Marseille
Giovanni **GALLI**	G	Napoli	Torino
Remy **GARDE**	D	Lyon	Strasbourg
Lizardo **GARRIDO**	D	Colo Colo (Chi)	Santos (Mex)
Maurizio **GAUDINO**	M	VfB Stuttgart	Eintracht Frankfurt
Bruno **GERMAIN**	D	Paris SG	Angers
Dale **GORDON**	F	Rangers	West Ham
Sergio **GOYCOCHEA**	G	Olimpia (Par)	River Plate (Arg)
Xavier **GRAVELAINE**	F	Caen	Paris SG
Angelo **GREGUCCI**	D	Lazio	Torino
Alphons **GROENENDIJK**	M	Ajax Amsterdam	Manchester City
Ruud **GULLIT**	F	Milan	Sampdoria
Sergei **GUSEV**	F	Chernomorets Odessa	Trabzonspor
Daniel **GUZMAN**	F	Atlante (Mex)	Santos (Mex)
Fabrice **HENRY**	M	Sochaux	Marseille
Mario **IELPO**	G	Cagliari	Milan
Viktor **IKPEBA**	F	FC Liege	Monaco
*Kare **INGEBRIGTSEN***	*M*	*Manchester City*	*Rosenborg*
Valdas **IVANAUSKAS**	F	Austria Wien	Hamburg SV
IVAN Iglesias	M	Sporting Gijon	Barcelona
Jahn Ivar **JAKOBSEN**	F	Young Boys	MSV Duisburg
Robert **JARNI**	D	Bari	Torino
Wim **JONK**	M	Ajax Amsterdam	Internazionale
Roy **KEANE**	M	Nottingham Forest	Manchester United
Kevin **KEEN**	F	West Ham	Wolves
David **KELLY**	F	Newcastle United	Wolves
Stephen **KESHI**	D	Strasbourg	RWD Molenbeek
KIKO	F	Cadiz	Atletico Madrid
Roman **KOSECKI**	F	Osasuna	Atletico Madrid
Axel **KRUSE**	M	Eintracht Frankfurt	VfB Stuttgart
Marius **LACATUS**	F	Oviedo	UNAM (Mex)
Inigo **LARRAINZAR**	M	Osasuna	Athletic Bilbao
*Brian **LAUDRUP***	*M*	*Fiorentina*	*Milan*
LUISINHO	M	Vasco da Gama	Celta Vigo
Francesco **MANESSERO**	M	Defensor Lima	Besiktas
Javier **MANJARIN**	F	Sporting Gijon	La Coruna
Luca **MARCHEGIANI**	G	Torino	Lazio
Ruben **MARTINEZ**	D	Colo Colo (Chi)	Santos (Mex)
Paul **MASON**	M	Aberdeen	Ipswich Town
Nourredine **MAYBET**	D	WAC Casablanca	Nantes
Eddie **McGOLDRICK**	F	Crystal Palace	Arsenal
Gary **McSWEGAN**	F	Rangers	Notts County
Kiril **METKOV**	D	CSKA Sofia	Gamba Osaka (Jap)
Geza **MESZOLY**	M	Vasas	Le Havre
Predrag **MIJATOVIC**	M	Partizan Belgrade	Valencia
Dave **MITCHELL**	F	Swindon Town	Altay
Alon **MIZRAHI**	F	Bnei Yehuda	Maccabi Haifa
MOACIR	M	Atletico Mineiro (Bra)	Atletico Madrid
Gabriel **MOYA**	F	Atletico Madrid	Sevilla
Dorinel **MUNTEANU**	M	Dinamo Bucharest	Cercle Bruges
Oswaldo **NARTOLIO**	F	Orlando Pirates (SA)	Besiktas
Paolo **NEGRO**	D	Brescia	Lazio
Nikos **NOBLIAS**	F	OFI Crete	Panathinaikos
Pascal **NOUMA**	F	Paris SG	Caen
David **O'LEARY**	D	Arsenal	Leeds United
Thierry **OLEKSIAK**	M	Lille	Angers
Pascal **OLMETA**	G	Marseille	Lyon
Francois **OMAM BIYIK**	F	Marseille	Lens
Frank **ORDENEWITZ**	F	Koln	JEF United (Jap)
Alessandro **ORLANDO**	D	Udinese	Milan
Marco **OSIO**	F	Parma	Torino
Antonio **PACHECO**	F	Benfica	Sporting Lisbon
Jean-Claude **PAGAL**	M	Saint Etienne	Martigues
Stephane **PAILLE**	F	Caen	Bordeaux
Christian **PANUCCI**	D	Genoa	Milan
Nicki **PAPAVASSILOU**	M	OFI Crete	Newcastle United
Andrea **PAZZAGLI**	G	Bologna	AS Roma
Gavin **PEACOCK**	F	Newcastle United	Chelsea
Andy **PEARCE**	D	Coventry City	Sheffield Wednesday
Abedi **PELE**	F	Marseille	Lyon
Lionel **PEREZ**	G	Nimes	Bordeaux
Dan **PETRESCU**	D	Foggia	Genoa
Frank **PINGEL**	F	Brondby	Bursaspor
Antonio **PINILLA**	F	Barcelona	Tenerife
Francisco **PIRRI**	F	Oviedo	Atletico Madrid
David **PLATT**	M	Juventus	Sampdoria
Carlos **POBLETE**	M	Cruz Azul (Mex)	Veracruz (Mex)
Toni **POLSTER**	F	Rayo Vallecano	Koln
William **PRUNIER**	D	Auxerre	Marseille
Jose **QUEVEDO**	M	Cadiz	Atletico Madrid
QUIQUE Estebaranz	F	Tenerife	Barcelona
*Florin **RADUCIOIU***	*F*	*Brescia*	*Milan*
RAI	M	Sao Paulo	Paris SG
Gerardo **REINOSO**	M	Univ. Catolica (Chi)	U. Tamaulipas (Mex)
Haim **REVIVO**	M	Bnei Yehuda	Hapoel Tel Aviv
Karlheinz **RIEDLE**	F	Lazio	Borussia Dortmund
Pedro **RIESCO**	M	Rayo Vallecano	La Coruna
Frank **RIJKAARD**	M	Milan	Ajax Amsterdam
ROMARIO	F	PSV Eindhoven	Barcelona
Neil **RUDDOCK**	D	Tottenham	Liverpool
Marcel **SABOU**	M	Racing Santander	Sporting Gijon
Andreas **SASSEN**	D	Bayer Uerdingen	Hamburg SV
Franck **SAUZEE**	M	Marseille	Atalanta
Jesus **SERER**	D	Mallorca	Valencia
Bernd **SCHUSTER**	M	Atletico Madrid	Bayer Leverkusen
Ciriaco **SFORZA**	M	Grasshopper Zurich	Kaiserslautern
Frank **SILVESTRE**	D	Sochaux	Auxerre
Amara **SIMBA**	F	Paris SG	Monaco
Nasko **SIRAKOV**	F	Lens	Levski Sofia
Jacques **SONGO'O**	G	Le Mans	Metz
Goran **SORLOTH**	F	Rosenborg	Bursaspor
Paulo **SOUSA**	M	Benfica	Sporting Lisbon
Alain **SUTTER**	M	Grasshopper Zurich	Nurnberg
Wilbert **SUVRIJN**	M	Montpellier	Ajax Amsterdam
Piotr **SWIERCZEWSKI**	M	GKS Katowice	St Etienne
Roman **SZEWCZYK**	D	GKS Katowice	Sochaux
Claudio **TAFFAREL**	G	Parma	Reggiana
Geoff **THOMAS**	M	Crystal Palace	Wolves
Stig **TOFTING**	M	AGF Aarhus	Hamburg SV
Andy **TOWNSEND**	M	Chelsea	Aston Villa
Adolfo **VALENCIA**	F	Indep. Santa Fe (Col)	Bayern Munich
Ivano **VALENCIANO**	F	Atalanta	Atletico Junior (Col)
Gerald **VANENBURG**	M	PSV Eindhoven	Yamaha (Jap)
Peter **VAN VOSSEN**	F	Anderlecht	Ajax Amsterdam
Philippe **VERCRUYSSE**	M	Nimes	Bordeaux
Marciano **VINK**	D	Ajax Amsterdam	Genoa
VITOR	*D*	*Sao Paulo*	*Real Madrid*
Salvador **VORO**	D	Valencia	La Coruna
Henk **VOS**	F	Standard Liege	Sochaux
Des **WALKER**	D	Sampdoria	Sheffield Wednesday
Marcel **WITECZECK**	F	Kaiserslautern	Bayern Munich
Richard **WITSCHGE**	M	Barcelona	Bordeaux
Richard **ZAMBRANO**	F	Univ. de Chile	Santos (Mex)
Alexander **ZICKLER**	M	Dynamo Dresden	Bayern Munich
Gianfranco **ZOLA**	M	Napoli	Parma

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Hard times

Austerity is the word in Serie A

IN MID-JULY, while on his holidays at Forte dei Marmi on the Ligurian coast just down from Genoa, Dutchman Ruud Gullit walked into the local bakery on his way home from the beach. The 75-year-old shopowner, Norma Pandolfini, looked up and said briskly: "No thanks, I don't want anything today, now be off with you".

Signora Pandolfini had made a simple error, taking Gullit for one of the thousands of African immigrants who eke out a miserable existence selling a sorry selection of poor-quality watches, radios, t-shirts etc at Italian holiday resorts all summer long.

Gullit must have thought that he had descended the Italian social ladder by more rungs than seemed possible.

In truth, in soccer terms at least, Ruud Gullit has come down in the world. His transfer to Sampdoria for £5 million after six seasons of success at the all-conquering Milan undoubtedly represents the biggest news of the Italian summer.

Curiously, too, the relatively low price paid for Gullit (his contract with Milan ran out at the end of June) provides an entirely fitting indicator for the preparations for the 1993-94 Italian championship.

For, if you had to name an unfamiliar word to sum up the new Italian season, that word would be "austerity".

Put simply, in an Italy whose industrial and political elite have been devastated by recession, bribery investigations (Tangentopoli) and nothing less than peaceful political revolution, the once rich captains of Italian industry who own the major Italian clubs have been unusually cautious with their money.

Early in the summer, the doyen of football barons, FIAT president Gianni Agnelli, had spelt out the economic realities both for his own Juventus team and for others when saying: "Our austerity programme will continue and will be total. Players may have to be sold.

"If I cannot see the way forward for Europe and Italy, then how can I be thinking of spending at Juventus?"

Agnelli's dilemma at Juventus is both symptomatic and revealing. FIAT, Italy's largest private sector firm, is in mini-crisis, hit by a 25 per cent drop in car sales in the first six months of 1993 and by the company's embarrassing involvement in a series of bribery incidents, as revealed by the Tangentopoli investigation. Between now and Christmas, FIAT will be laying off thousands of car workers.

In such a climate, it is neither economically viable nor politically acceptable for FIAT to be seen to splash out millions of dollars on soccer players while unable to guarantee workers' jobs.

Even Italy's biggest spender of the past few years, champions Milan, have been modest — spending less than half the vast sums the lashed out during the summer of 1992, and preferring to opt out rather than pay the £13million being asked for Napoli's Uruguyan forward Daniel Fonseca.

A further revealing indication of Italian austerity concerns the purchase of new foreigners.

Last year, Italian clubs started the season with 34 imports from abroad .

At the time of going to press, the figure for the new season was a mere seven — the Dutchmen Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk (Internazionale) and Marcino Vink (Genoa), the Croatian midfielder Zoran Ban (Juventus), Swedis veteran Johnny Ekstrom (Reggiana), Frenchman Franck Sauzee (Atalanta), and Colombian striker Julio Dely Valdez (Cagliari).

Austerity notwithstanding, there is every reason to believe that this will be yet another intriguing Italian season. The runaway champions of the last two seasons, Milan, in the words of their own coach, Fabio Capello, face a "titanic" task attempting to become the first side to win three consecutive titles since Torino in the immediate post-war years.

Milan (see elsewhere in this issue for Club Focus) have lost two of their three great Dutchmen in Gullit (to Sampdoria) and Frank Rijkaard (to Ajax Amsterdam), while the third, Marco Van Basten, is still recovering from ankle surgery. The loss of the Dutchmen, question marks about their ageing captain, Franco Baresi, and a new-look formation in which such as Romanian Florin Raducioiu, Dane Brian Laudrup and Italian Christian Panucci scramble for places all represent hopeful signs for Milan's weary opponents. Until the contrary is proven, however, Milan remain the side to beat.

Of their opponents, none is more fancied that Internazionale, who finished an honourable second to them last season. Inter's mid-winter signing of Dutchmen Bergkamp and Jonk, their excellent run in the second half of last season and the craft of their wily coach Osvaldo Bagnoli are the reasons why even people such as Milan coach Capello

tip them as title favourites. (Who does Capello think he is fooling?)

Inevitably, the FIAT-owned UEFA Cup-winners Juventus have to start in the vanguard, although more on the basis of their good end-of-season form than on the strength of their quiet transfer activity, for reasons outlined above.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni perhaps has finally got the makings of a good team, based on the spinal column of Brazilian Julio Cesar and German Jurgen Kohler in defence, defensive midfielder Dino Baggio, attacking midfielders Roberto Baggio and German Andreas Moeller.

If Gianluca Vialli can finally reproduce his Sampdoria form in this, his second season with Juventus, then fans of the "Old Lady" of Italian soccer are entitled to start dreaming again.

The Cup-winners' Cup-holders, Parma, were perhaps the best side in Italian soccer at the end of last season.

Many people have seen their purchase of Napoli's gifted little playmaker, Gianfranco Zola, as an indication that this time the rise and rise of Parma will end in a title triumph. I tend to think that Parma will concentrate this year, as last, on ensuring a good Cup run before they start thinking seriously about the league.

That consideration also may apply to the UEFA Cup contenders, Juventus and Inter, who also could concentrate on European competition if things go against them in the league.

Lazio, too, are another UEFA Cup contender, maybe even a pretender to the Italian throne.

In buying such as midfielder Fabrizio Di Mauro (Fiorentina), defender Paolo Negro (Brescia) and goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani (Torino), Lazio have gone some way towards setting to rights a distinctly soft-looking defence.

But, their seasonal preparations have been clouded by the failure to sign Napoli's international defender Ciro Ferrara and by the difficulties in confirming the purchase of Marseille's Croatian striker Alen Boksic for the 1993-94 season.

Further, the Lazio season may well depend largely on the performances of one enigmatic but talented player — Englishman Paul Gascoigne. His arrival at team training camp, almost one stone overweight, does not augur well.

Man in the middle . . . Dino Baggio (centre) will be the defensive pivot in the Juventus midfield.

For Gascoigne, it is now or never time with Lazio, whose patience may abruptly end if his performances do not prove consistently influential and match-winning in a season in which they are back in European competition for the first time since 1978.

Big-money deal . . . for Balbo.

Lazio's Rome neighbours, AS Roma, brought off perhaps the biggest coup of the transfer season when paying £3.25million for Argentine Abel Balbo, scorer of 21 goals for Udinese last season. Balbo, along with new coach Carlo Mazzone, the man who took Cagliari into Europe last term, should mean that Roma will improve on a disastrous year that ended up with them down the league, out of Europe and beaten on aggregate by Torino in the Italian Cup Final.

Big-money deals . . . for Gullit (main picture) and Zola (right).

On paper, those same Italian Cup-winners, Torino, look less strong than last season. The purchases of Croatian defender Robert Jarni (Bari), striker Marco Osio (Parma), Uruguayan midfielder Enzo Francescoli (Cagliari), defender Angelo Gregucci (Lazio) and goalkeeper Giovanni Galli (Napoli) — all well-travelled gentlemen — may not make up for the departures of goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani (Lazio), Beglian midfielder Enzo Scifo (Monaco), Brazilian striker Casagrande (Flamengo) and defender Pasquale Bruno (Fiorentina).

The fact that Torino tried long and hard to woo Gullit before having him snatched away suggests that even Torino accept that their squad lacks something. An important foreign purchase for Torino before the season begins cannot be excluded.

The seventh Italian side in Europe, surprise UEFA Cup contenders Cagliari, made probably their most significant purchase in the shape of hugely experienced coach Gigi Radice, the man whose premature dismissal at Fiorentina last season served as a prelude to relegation for the Florence team.

Cagliari also have bought the Colombian Julio Dely Valdez (Nacional of Montevideo) and Pescara striker Massimiliano Allegri but they still look lightweight for survival in either the UEFA Cup or the top end of the Italian league.

Sampdoria, strengthened by the Milan rejects Alberigo Evani and Gullit and by the Juventus reject, Englishman David Platt, are another side who badly want to improve on a disappointing season.

Like the rest of them, however, they have a long way to go before reaching Milan's level.

By the end of this season, however, at least that bakery owner down the coast from Genoa will probably have come to recognise her famous one-time customer — Mr. Gullit.

PADDY AGNEW

1993-94 ITALIAN CUP

● THE first round of the Italian Cup involves 10 sides from Serie C1, 20 from Serie B and two from Serie A, Genoa and Udinese, and is to be played on August 22 — one match only, on the grounds of the first-named clubs.

The other 16 Serie A sides join the competition in the second round, which is due to be played on a home and away basis, with the first leg on October 6 and the return on October 27.

Cup-holders Torino face the winners of the Acireale v Ascoli match in round two. Other big second-round games include Milan versus Vicenza or Modena, Lazio versus Ternana or Bari, Juventus versus either Monza or Venezia, and Inter against Taranto or Lucchese.

1st Round (August 22)	2nd Round opponents
Vicenza v Modena	Milan
Perugia v Genoa	Piacenza
Spal v Cosenza	Atalanta
Acireale v Ascoli	Torino
Giarre v Ancona	Napoli
Ternana v Bari	Lazio
Empoli v Fiorentina	Reggiana
Monza v Venezia	Juventus
Palermo v Verona	Parma
Como v Brescia	Cremonese
Ravenna v Cesena	Cagliari
Triestina v Pescara	Foggia
Bologna v Padova	Roma
Fidelis Andria v Pisa	Sampdoria
Salernitana v Udinese	Lecce
Taranto v Lucchese	Inter

Modest Millionaire

From clogs to international class

ASK about the village of Volendam, and most people will tell you it is a couple of miles from Amsterdam on the Dutch west coast, a popular spot for tourists, thanks to the atmosphere, the fishing and sailing, and the fact that most of the locals wear a special Dutch costume, including clogs.

That is not all. As Ipswich Town and Manchester United and now Internazionale are well aware.

This is the village that produced the Muhren brothers Gerrie and Arnold. And the latest discovery to go into the big time? Wim Jonk.

Very few years ago Jonk was a painter and decorator, and a part-time footballer with FC Volendam.

Now — via Ajax of course — he is a member of the footballers' millionaire club, thanks to his transfer during the summer, with club colleague Dennis Bergkamp, from Ajax to Inter.

Vonk owes a lot to the Muhren brothers. They tipped off Johan Cruyff, then Ajax manager, about him.

Cruyff left Ajax after internal disputes, but Arnold Muhren stayed on, and so did his influence.

Jonk regarded his soccer life as a sort of dream. He had always thought he could earn a bit from his hobby, but no more. Even in 1988, when Ajax stepped in to sign him, the modest Jonk accepted the fact that he must start in the reserves. And he also accepted the fact that Leo Beenhakker was the new manager, with new ideas.

Beenhakker regarded Witschge, Wouters and Winter as his midfield. Jonk was thought of merely as a deputy for Wouters.

But when Wouters was suspended Jonk was surprisingly overlooked. Instead, Dennis Bergkamp came in. After that came a second tactical problem . . . Jonk was now regarded as a deputy for Bergkamp.

Jonk was a football fanatic, and while keeping his mouth shut he worked like hell in training to improve his game.

In August 1991 Jonk thought he was finished when he was left out of a friendly against Real Madrid.

He then asked Rob Jansen of the Dutch Players' Union for help, and got some good advice: "Don't quit now. That would not help. Wait until October and if the situation is the same then, maybe we can find you a new club, even one in Switzerland."

A couple of weeks later Beenhakker left Ajax, his assistant Louis van Gaal was appointed manager, and he let Jonk know that he did not regard him as a deputy for Bergkamp, but as his support player.

As the rest of the soccer world now knows, it worked . . . for Ajax and for Holland.

Bergkamp and Vonk are chalk and cheese with their talents, but they get on well together and their wives are good friends.

With all the varied problems facing foreigners in Italy — and there are real problems there — maybe this Bergkamp-Jonk combination will come to be remembered for solving some of them. Jonk understands how close good luck and bad luck are to each other in soccer. Had Beenhakker stayed with Ajax for one more month there might well have been a different story.

Now, as the first Volendammer to play in the Italian Serie A, Jonk has every right to be proud.

From the start he was a football fanatic. Like many others in sport he ignored advice and pleas from his parents to do his best to go up through secondary modern to grammar school education. Jonk stayed at elementary level — thanks to football.

He left school at 16, when he started painting and decorating. But football remained No. 1. In 1985 he got his first contract with FC Volendam, and at 19 he made his debut.

His coach did not think the kid knew enough about the game to stay in the first team, so he went back to the reserves.

That is now very much in the past. So, too, is the farewell game for Bergkamp and Jonk, a 5-1 win over Fortuna Sittard.

Ajax and FC Volendam are now in the past. Jonk, like Bergkamp, has become a soccer millionaire.

ERIC NICHOLLS

In the money . . . Wim Jonk's career changed when Leo Beenhakker (inset) left Ajax.

PRO-FILE

WIM JONK

INTERNAZIONALE AND HOLLAND

Born: October 12, 1966.

Previous clubs: FC Volendam, Ajax.

International caps: Seven.

HONOURS

Dutch championship: 1990.

Dutch Cup: 1993.

UEFA Cup: 1992.

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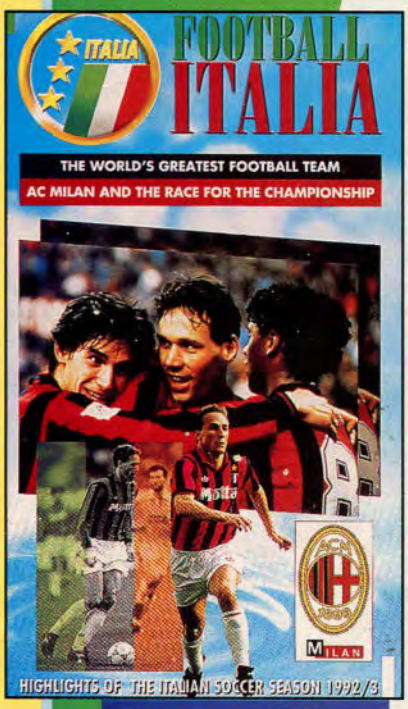

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Champions' Cup: 1963. 1969, 1989, 1990
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Euro Supercup: 1989, 1990
Italian League: 13
Italian Cup: 4

Milan's new boys (l to r): Orlando, Raducioiu, Panucci, Laudrup, coach Capello, Ielpo, Lantignotti, Elber and Carbone.

MILAN

Can the bandwagon keep on rolling?

Without their great Dutchmen, with an ageing captain in Franco Baresi and with a much changed formation, have Milan come to the end of a winning cycle?

Or has Milan's late burst of activity on the transfer market, securing the last-minute purchases of Romanian Florin Raducioiu and Dane Brian Laudrup, meant that once again the "black and reds" will lord it over all their Italian rivals?

All analysis of the new Italian season inevitably begins and ends with the reigning champions, Milan, who will be going for a third consecutive title, a feat not achieved since the post-war Torino picked up four titles in a row between 1946 and 1949.

Two summers ago, your correspondent made the hopelessly inaccurate prediction that the then new manager, Fabio Capello, would fail to live up to the high standards set by his predecessor, Arrigo Sacchi.

Last year, I obviously labelled Milan the favourites, while however expressing reservations about the potential difficulties of keeping a star-studded stable happy and winning.

Coach Capello defied both pessimistic predictions on those occasions and, for that reason alone, it would be pure folly not to name Milan as title favourites, once again.

If Capello faced serious problems on the eve of the last two seasons, however, it is arguable that they are as nothing compared to the potential obstacles in his path this autumn.

First and foremost, for the first time in six years, Milan begin the new season without their Dutch stars Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten. Gullit has gone to Sampdoria ($714,000), Rijkaard has gone for a prolonged holiday prior to picking himself a new club and Van Basten, still recovering from the most recent summer surgery on his ailing ankle, is not expected to return to the fray until

Leaving . . . Frank Rijkaard.

Finally, perhaps, we are about to have an answer to one of the great conundrums of the last six seasons of success at Milan. Namely, how much is and was that success dependent on the Dutchmen?

For, even if many observers would argue that the 30-year-old Gullit is a long way removed from the player of six seasons ago, there can be no doubt that both Van Basten and Rijkaard have made fundamental contributions to the most recent Milan successes.

Coach Capello still hopes to recuperate a "good as ever" Van Basten but is understandably worried about the difficult task of replacing Rijkaard, arguably the outstanding Milan player of the last five seasons:

"You don't have to tell me what a loss Frank is, and that's my biggest regret this summer. I tried hard to persuade him to stay but there was nothing to be done".

Nothing to be done about Rijkaard perhaps, but plenty to do on the transfer market.

Even on the day that Milan wrapped up the 1993 title with a 1-1 home draw against Brescia, flamboyant club president Silvio Berlusconi had immediately promised changes.

That title win came just four days after Milan's biggest disappointment of the entire season, their Champions' Cup final loss to Marseille.

When Berlusconi talked of changes, he made it quite clear that next year, he wanted Milan to win the the Italian league AND the Champions' Cup.

Accordingly, despite a general climate of austerity in the transfer market, Berlusconi splashed out $13.5million for players including midfielder Laudrup (on loan from relegated Fiorentina), striker Raducioiu ($1million loan from Brescia), goalkeeper Mario Ielpo (Cagliari) and right-back Christian Panucci ($6.8million transfer from Genoa). Interestingly, however, Milan opted out of paying the $20million Napoli wanted for their Uruguayan striker, Daniel Fonseca.

That figure might be a long way short of the $40million spent by Milan in the summer of 1992 but nonetheless goes some way to maintaining the awesome overall squad strength.

"Turnover", or the constant chopping and changing of a winning side based on a 28-player squad system, will once again represent the basic Capello strategy.

In many positions, Capello has an enviable variety of choice. Raducioiu starts off as the substitute ready to step in for either Marco Simone or Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin in attack. Brian Laudrup and Italian international Stefano Eranio are likely to find themselves in a three-way battle with Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic for the right midfield berth, left void by Gullit's departure.

On the other side of midfield, Gigi Lentini starts as first choice, narrowly ahead of another summer signing, Angelo Carbone (back from loans to Bari and Napoli).

In theory, the Croat Zvonimir Boban and Demetrio Albertini should represent the first-choice central midfield pairing and the players to cover the absence of Rijkaard.

Here too, however, Capello can call on a more than useful substitutes in either Christian Lantignotti (bought from Cesena) or Fernando De Napoli.

In defence, Capello has three excellent goalkeepers in first-choice Sebastiano Rossi and subs Francesco Antonioli and Ielpo, while his first-choice back four should be Baresi, Panucci, Alessandro Costacurta and Paolo Maldini.

Again, ready-made replacements in the shape of Alessandro Orlando (bought from Udinese), veterans Mauro Tassotti and Filippo Galli, as well as Enzo Gambaro and Stefano Nava, are there to keep the pressure on their team-mates.

Michel Platini, no less, recently claimed that excessive competition for team places at club level wears players out psychologically and damages the team.

Milan's alarming loss of form towards the end of last season when winning only one of their final 12 league games, suggests that perhaps Platini has a point.

In any case, the doubts about "turnover", the departure of the Dutchmen and the questionable efficiency of the ageing Baresi all represent the biggest questions about this Milan, not to say a reason for their demoralised rivals to once again start dreaming. Yet, until we have evidence to the contrary, Milan remain the side to beat.

PADDY AGNEW

GOALKEEPERS

SEBASTIANO ROSSI — 29,
started off last season as second choice behind Antonioli but won his way into the team with solid, safe performances which, with any other club, would have guaranteed him a first choice selection for this year. This is Milan, however, and he will be under pressure from new signing, Ielpo of Cagliari.

MARIO IELPO — 30,
late developer who was arguably the best Serie A goalkeeper last season with Cagliari *(see above)*.

FRANCESCO ANTONIOLI — 23,
a former Under-21 international, Antonioli starts as third choice. He has paid a heavy price for injury and for conceding a soft goal against Inter, in the first derby of last season (1-1, final result).

MARIO IELPO

MIDFIELDERS

DEMETRIO ALBERTINI — 22,
central midfielder and jewel in the Milan crown. Along with the Croat Boban, it will fall to Albertini to fill the immense gap left by the departure of Rijkaard. Given his class, nobody will be surprised if he proves up to the task.

ZVONIMIR BOBAN — 24,
central midfielder who began last season as complete outsider of six foreigners and ended up playing in 13 league games as well as important Champions' Cup ties. By contrast, this season he starts off as a first choice selection (see Albertini above) and along with Frenchman Papin is the only member of the Milan foreigner sextet sure of a team place.

ANGELO CARBONE — 25,
left midfield, could challenge "Gigi" Lentini for a team place.

FERNANDO DE NAPOLI — 29,
central midfielder who played in only four league games last season but who may well get a better run this year, especially if Albertini and Boban do not work out in central midfield.

ROBERTO DONADONI — 30,
right midfield, Donadoni remains something of a luxury reserve who starts as only fourth choice in his position. (See Eranio)

STEFANO ERANIO — 27,
right-back or right midfield, he will have his work cut out to get into the team ahead of Montenegrin Savicevic or Dane Laudrup. Could be switched to the other flank.

CHRISTIAN LANTIGNOTTI — 23,
recalled from Cesena, he could prove useful central midfield reserve.

ZVONIMIR BOBAN

BRIAN LAUDRUP — 24,
centre or right midfield, a surprise purchase (on loan) from relegated Fiorentina, Laudrup may prove a bargain because he arrives in Milan, determined to prove that he has yet to show the best of himself in Italian soccer.

GIGI LENTINI — 24,
left midfield, the $15million signing of one year ago had a relatively disappointing first year but is likely to compensate for that this season when, relieved of pressure, he could prove one of the success stories of the season and in the process guarantee his Italian team place in readiness for the US '94 World Cup.

DEJAN SAVICEVIC — 27,
attacking midfielder, is another player to come into this season with everything to prove since he missed the boat last year, losing out in the six-way battle for three foreign places. With two Dutchmen gone and one out injured, Savicevic's hour may have come but first he will have to improve his poor relations with Capello.

DEFENDERS

FRANCO BARESI — 33,
once the prince of Italian sweepers, has Baresi stayed on too long? Without Frank Rijkaard in front of him and with an extra year on the clock, will he be badly exposed?

ALESSANDRO COSTACURTA — 27,
first-choice central defender, had a surprisingly indifferent season last year which he is most unlikely to repeat. One of the many Milan players in the Italian international squad.

FILIPPO GALLI — 30,
central defender, something of a club mascot, this much-injured player starts strictly as a reserve.

ENZO GAMBARO — 27,
right-back, in 11 league appearances last season was always reliable without being spectacular. Also starts as reserve.

PAOLO MALDINI — 25,
left-back, arguably the best player in Italian soccer last season and one of the essential elements in the side.

STEFANO NAVA — 24,
a favourite with coach Capello, he played in 14 league games last season and could become a permanent fixture this season.

ALESSANDRO ORLANDO — 23,
bought from Udinese this summer, he may well be groomed as the heir to Baresi's throne.

FRANCO BARESI

CHRISTIAN PANUCCI — 20,
right-back, the biggest Milan purchase of the summer ($6.8million from Genoa) and expected to be a utility player in different defensive roles.

MAURO TASSOTTI — 33,
right-back, arguably Tassotti will be kept out of the side by Panucci. However, such has been the consistent quality of his contributions over the years that he may well hang on to his first team berth.

EMILIANO VERGA — 24,
reserve defender, recalled from Venezia in Division Two.

STRIKERS

DANIEL MASSARO — 32,
spoiled what would have been a splendid season last year by missing at least three first-half chances that could have wrapped up the Champions' Cup Final against Marseille in May. Like last year, he starts off as a reserve and like last year, you can expect to see him coming on as a second-half substitute, to telling effect. 5 goals last season.

JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN — 29,
thanks to Van Basten's pre-Christmas injury, Papin got his chance with Milan last season, repaying the club with 13 league goals in 22 games. While the Dutchman remains unavailable, he will continue to be the Milan standard bearer in attack. Expect more goals.

FLORIN RADUCIOIU — 23,
having scored 13 goals for the relegated Brescia, Romanian Raducioiu can be said to have had a fine season last year (his third in Italy). Raducioiu, a second-choice purchase, made only when Napoli's Fonseca was ruled too expensive at $20million, may be kept out of the team more by the foreign player quota than by his own shortcomings.

MARCO SIMONE — 24,
for at least two years now, he has been pronounced by everyone from Sacchi to Capello as the "bright new future" of Milan. If he finally lives up to that prophecy this season, then he will become an automatic first-choice selection. 5 goals last season.

MARCO VAN BASTEN — 28,
when will he return from injury and will he be as good as ever? These are the only relative questions about one of world soccer's greatest talents.

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Bookings were down from 1,258 to 1,193, and fewer team managers lost their jobs — nine compared with 11 last term.

There was a great improvement in the behaviour of the fans, with virtually no outbreaks of hooliganism.

On the whole, German football can be pleased with the progress made, although the clubs did not shine in European competitions. Only Borussia Dortmund reached the latter stages, losing to Juventus in the UEFA Cup final.

Champions Werder Bremen will have a tough task defending the title. Rivals have strengthened their squads, but Werder's only newcomer is utility player Mario Basler from Hertha Berlin.

Veteran striker Klaus Allofs has retired, while world-class libero Rune Bratseth had a knee operation and will be out of action for a while.

Bayern Munich, so close to winning the crown — pipped in the last two matches — claim they are stronger than last season.

Team manager Erich Ribbeck says: "It will be even more difficult than last year, but we are more experienced now. The players who joined 12 months ago, like Helmer, Jorginho, Schupp and Scholl, are well integrated while Ziege will get even better. And we have strengthened the attack."

The Bavarians snapped up Colombian international striker Jose Adolfo Valencia for £2.5million from Independiente Santa Fe.

This prolific marksman has been most impressive recently and should combine well with another signing, Marcel Witeczek, signed from Kaiserslautern for £2.3m.

He is a strong, quick and dynamic forward, a dangerous finisher and ideal in counter attacks.

Perhaps the biggest plus factor, however, is captain Lothar Matthaus's decision to remain in Munich.

Following some unsavoury exchanges splashed in the more sensational media, Matthaus and general manager Uli Hoeness apparently have settled their differences and thus ended talk of the skipper's departure.

Two of Bayern's rivals have considerably improved their prospects thanks to shrewd signings.

Returning and retiring . . . Karlheinz Riedle (left) is back in Germany with Borussia Dortmund, and Klaus Allofs (below) has decided to quit.

Borussia Dortmund landed national team striker Karlheinz Riedle, unhappy in Italy with Lazio because of the fierce competition for places; he cost £4.5m.

Dortmund, who made an estimated £9m from the UEFA Cup alone, have invested wisely.

Riedle wanted to join his favourite club, Bayern, but they were slow to react or to loosen the purse strings.

That is why they also missed Ruud Gullit, who also was keen to join them.

Eintracht Frankfurt's new team manager, Klaus Toppmoller, persuaded the board to sign Stuttgart's attacking midfielder, Maurizio Gaudino, and Hamburg's Polish international striker, Jan Furtok.

These arrivals, with the Bundesliga's joint top scorer, Anthony Yeboah, and Uwe Bein, could spearhead Eintracht's bid for the title they have won only once, in 1959.

Cup-holders Bayer Leverkusen will bank — next to the other leading marksman Ulf Kirsten — on their surprise capture, Bernd Schuster. After 13 years in Spain, with Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid, he returned home to finish his career.

Schuster, now 33, says he can still contribute at the highest level for another few years.

He claims he had two other offers from outside Germany, but wanted to settle down in the area where he grew up.

"I always wanted to play libero, but it somehow never happened. I shall continue with Leverkusen in midfield."

He added that his ambition is to win a trophy with a German club — again.

Other noteworthy transfers include that of the unhappy "world champion" Thomas Berthold, who left Bayern for Stuttgart, while the negotiations to acquire Brazilian Carlos Dunga from Italy's Pescara are in abeyance.

Kaiserslautern engaged Switzerland's Footballer of the Year, Ciriaco Sforza, and veteran full-back Andy Brehme from Zaragoza.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

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ANALYSIS

GERMANY

THE MANAGER

Berti VOGTS
Aged 46 (born December 30, 1946).
Took over after the 1990 World Cup. Made his name with Borussia Monchengladbach, won 96 caps, the World Cup, two UEFA Cups, five Championships and one DFB Cup. Twice Footballer of the Year, hung up his boots in 1979 to join the DFB; at first as coach to the Under-21 team.

Tunisia next stop

Vogts and his squad cannot wait to get back into action

GERMAN team manager Bertie Vogts is eagerly looking forward to September 22, and his country's next international. He and the squad can hardly wait.

As holders of the World Cup, Germany are automatically qualified for the 1994 contest in the United States.

This means that they have plenty of time to experiment, but they miss competitive matches.

So although their next game is a minor affair, against Tunisia, it is being treated very seriously.

Tunisia is a popular holiday destination with many German people, and the team will have plenty of support when they play in Tunis.

Vogts, who has been in charge for three years, says: "We are now playing the type of football I love, the type the public appreciate.

"The lapses which cost us goals in the US Cup '93 in June were not serious, and we'll have a strong defensive block with key players rested and well prepared.

"I'm also confident that Lothar Matthaus will regain full power and fitness during the season. Against England in America he played his best match since the injury that almost ended his career."

Germany did not go to America for the US Cup '93 just for the ride. "This was a dress rehearsal for the World Cup and we were very anxious to win it," said Vogts. "We did, and the players were suitably rewarded."

Indeed they were. They collected £14,000 each after three matches, a draw with Brazil and victories over the US and England.

The DFB made £1.2million in appearance fees, so they could afford to be generous.

Germany did well to win, because strikers Ulf Kirsten and Andreas Thom were engaged with their club, Bayer Leverkusen, in the Cup Final, while midfielder Thomas Hassler was similarly occupied with Roma in Italy.

In addition, libero Olaf Thon missed the tournament through injury, and centre-back Jurgen Kohler could not play in the last game.

Thomas Helmer impressed as libero and will now challenge Thon, who is outstanding in switching from defence into attack (he was originally a midfielder), but does not command the area, organise, or sweep up at the back like Klaus Augenthaler used to do.

In goal Andy Kopke's position is being threatened by the man he replaced as No. 1, Bodo Illgner. He played against England and did extremely well.

Matthaus, who celebrated his 100th cap in America, and Stefan Effenberg are first choices in midfield but there are now at least five candidates for the other posts.

Up front Jurgen Klinsmann has returned to form and become irreplaceable. He won two trophies, one as top scorer and the other as "Most valuable player" in the tournament. Karlheinz Riedle was just as lethal, particularly with his hat-trick of headers against the US.

Germany have great hopes for the youngest member of the squad, 21-year-old Christian Ziege of Bayern Munich, who is now being hailed as "a new Brehme".

The other debutant, Karl-Heinz Pflipsen, 22, also did well in midfield.

Vogts can look back on a positive record: in his 30 matches, there were 18 wins, seven draws and five defeats — only one last season in ten games.

"I intend to continue in the job even after the World Cup, provided I feel I can still help the players," he says. "Compared with the European Championship the present squad is much more relaxed and ready to tackle any problem.

"Individually I'm delighted with Ziege, who has solved our problem on the left side of defence.

"On the right I expect that Thomas Strunz will carry on where he left off in America."

Vogts has every reason to be confident. With a squad including Matthaus, Effenberg, Klinsmann, Kopke, Ziege, Illgner, Schulz, Strunz, Riedle, Thom, Thon, Bein, Buchwald, Hassler, Helmer, Kirsten, Kohler, Moller, Pflipsen, Sammer and Zorc, he can hardly be otherwise.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

THE PLAYERS

Andreas KOPKE.
Goalkeeper.
Nurnberg.
Aged 31 (born March 12, 1962).
11 caps.
Took over from Bodo Illgner after the '92 European Championship, now the only German keeper rated world class.

Bodo ILLGNER.
Goalkeeper.
Koln.
Aged 26 (born April 7, 1967).
41 caps.
Had a marvellous World Cup, but later inconsistent and demoted to No. 2. Now back in contention.

Guido BUCHWALD.
Central defender.
VfB Stuttgart.
Aged 32 (born January 24, 1961).
65 caps.
A reliable man-marker, strong in the tackle and in the air. Debut in 1984.

Thomas HELMER.
Defender.
Bayern Munich.
Aged 28 (born April 21, 1965).
19 caps.
Can play anywhere in defence, lately impressive as libero. A model of consistency.

Jurgen KOHLER.
Central defender.
Juventus.
Aged 27 (born October 6, 1965).
54 caps.

Team-mates in opposition . . . Bayern Munich's Jorginho and Matthaus during the Brazil v Germany US Cup '93 match.

Typical stopper, superb tackler, fast, hard-shooting and commanding in the air.

Michael SCHULZ.
Defender.
Borussia Dortmund.
Aged 31 (born September 3, 1961).
5 caps.
Has developed into a dependable utility defender; previously with Kaiserslautern.

Olaf THON.
Libero.
Bayern Munich.
Aged 27 (born May 1, 1966).
40 caps.
Lost his place after the World Cup, recalled since being converted from midfielder to sweeper.

Uwe BEIN.
Midfield.
Eintracht Frankfurt.
Aged 32 (born September 25, 1960).
16 caps.
A versatile, veteran player, superb technician with great vision and fierce shot.

Stefan EFFENBERG.
Midfield.
Fiorentina.
Aged 25 (born August 2, 1968).
21 caps.
Controversial but highly-talented midfield organiser feared for his thunderous free-kicks.

Lothar MATTHAUS.
Midfield.
Bayern Munich.
Aged 32 (born March 21, 1961).
101 caps.
Team captain and driving force who has won every honour: World, European and German Footballer of the Year, plus World Sportsman of the Year.

Andy MOLLER.
Midfield.
Juventus.
Aged 25 (born September 2, 1967).
30 caps.
Another controversial character, but a clever inventive schemer, always willing to take the initiative.

Karl-Heinz PFLIPSEN.
Midfield.
Borussia Monchengladbach.
Aged 22 (born October 31, 1970).
1 cap.
A star in the making who graduated from the Under-21 side to the full squad.

Matthias SAMMER.
Midfield.
Borussia Dortmund.
Aged 25 (born September 5, 1867).
15 caps.
A former East German international who had an unhappy spell in Italy before going to Dortmund.

Thomas STRUNZ.
Midfield.
VfB Stuttgart.
Aged 25 (born April 25, 1968).
6 caps.
Made his name with Bayern Munich before transferring to Bayern. His strength lies in defence.

Christian ZIEGE.
Midfield.
Bayern Munich.
Aged 21 (born February 1, 1972).
3 caps.
Discovery of the season, technically accomplished, tigerish in the tackle.

Michael ZORC.
Midfield.
Borussia Dortmund.
Aged 30 (born August 25, 1962).
6 caps.
Late developer, a consistent ball-winner. First season in national team.

Thomas HASSLER.
Midfield.
Roma.
Aged 27 (born May 30, 1966).
40 caps.
The star of last year's European Championship. Technically outstanding, with pace and vision and deadly from free-kicks.

Jurgen KLINSMANN.
Striker.
Monaco.
Aged 29 (born July 30, 1964).
51 caps.
A quick, bustling forward who nearly gave up football, but the move from Internazionale to Monaco revived a flagging career.

Karlheinz RIEDLE.
Striker.
Borussia Dortmund.
Aged 27 (born September 16, 1965).
33 caps.
A classy counter-attacker and brilliant header. Three years with Lazio before returning to Germany.

Ulf KIRSTEN.
Striker.
Bayer Leverkusen.
Aged 27 (born December 4, 1965).
4 caps.
A former East German international (49 caps) made the breakthrough into the all-German team this season.

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WORLD

INTRODUCING a new series in which *WORLD SOCCER* brings you the views and opinions of various soccer magazines and newspapers from around the world.

This month's selection includes editorials on Gerald Vanenburg, Paul Gascoigne, Romario, Werder Bremen, Diego Maradona, Jean-Michel Larque and Japan's blossoming J.League.

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Holland)

GERALD VANENBURG, the 29-year-old Dutch international midfielder, and former captain of PSV, is now in Japan with Yamaha, with whom he has a contract until February 1996.

For some it was inevitable. And for some it was sad that Vanenburg could not win his soccer battles on and off the field in Holland. So, what do they say about Vanenburg . . .

Kees Rijvers, ex-Holland manager and now PSV scout: "The former coaches of PSV have not taken Gerald seriously. Neither have they made it plain why he was on such a long contract (life-long!). Gerald must of course look at himself, but in my opinion PSV had too little understanding of the real Vanenburg."

Dick Advocaat, Holland manager: "It is a pity for Dutch football that he has gone. But for himself it may be the best. When you have been on top since you were seventeen, it is difficult. His future with the Holland national team may be difficult, but certainly not impossible."

Aad de Mos, PSV manager: "Everyone with me starts from scratch. But I want to work with players who want to give 100 per cent to PSV. For Vanenburg I honestly believe it is a good thing for him to find a new career."

Wim Kieft, PSV striker: "I am a little sad that Gerald has gone. We have, in the past, had problems, but when I came back to PSV that has not been the case. I find it sad that a player of his calibre goes out the back door. He was one of the best five players of his generation, but in Holland he has never had the respect he deserved."

Hans van Breukelen, PSV keeper: "I think it is good for Gerald that he can leave the bad things and bad reactions behind him. For the last few years he was not happy, and that affected his ability on the field. Therefore, I can only hope that, not only as a top footballer, but also as a person, Gerald will be happy in Japan. Sadly, it is well known that we in Holland are not the best people to get the best from a good footballer."

SOCCER AMERICA

HIS first team was nicknamed "The Little Onions" — a fact that Diego Maradona has reminded us of by spending the latter years of his career crying and whining.

Crying about conspiracies, crying about referees, crying about the treachery that cost his team the 1990 World Cup final — a final he marred with his arguing and pleading.

Crying about the injustice a heartless world imposes on him, crying about the Mafia — that has been Maradona's contribution to soccer recently.

He apparently finished his playing career in June by skulking off the field after another dismal performance for Spanish club Sevilla and his Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo, perhaps the only man who would give him a chance following a 15-month suspension for failing a drug test during his days with Napoli.

Sevilla later fired him. Good riddance.

As superb as Maradona has been, as mesmerising as he was at the 1986 World Cup and for Barcelona and Argentinos Juniors and Boca Juniors and Napoli, he wore out his prima donna pose a long time ago.

And now he is touting a movie of his life's story.

Oh how the tears will flow. He has become a sad caricature, a great talent turned sour.

We will miss Maradona the player, the one who endured pressure and pain and performed brilliantly.

But we will not regret the absence of Maradona the self-proclaimed martyr.

DON BALON (Spain)

THE arrival at Barcelona of Romario is good news for Spanish football.

The Brazilian is one of the few spectacular players on the world stage.

Also, if it's true that Barcelona have paid a bargain price — £2 million plus £800,000 guaranteed from a series of friendly matches — then the club also deserve congratulations.

Far more complicated, and delicate, is the issue of whether Romario is the right signing for FC Barcelona.

Not for his quality, which is beyond question, but for the particular circumstances relating to foreign players at Barcelona.

In and around the club, opinion is divided. There are those who consider the signing a positive step and those

D PRESS

KICKER-SPORTMAGAZIN (Germany)

THE Champions League, in which the last eight in the European Champions' Cup participate in two groups, has been acclaimed by those clubs who made more money from the tournament than ever before.

But Willi Lemke, general manager of Germany's new champions, Werder Bremen, is not happy. "It is absurd how the Champions Cup, which should be the crowning of all international competitions, has been financially demoted," Lemke wrote in a guest editorial for the magazine.

"When I think of the millions that Borussia Dortmund raked in from the UEFA Cup thanks to the television contract the DFB organised, I get angry.

"We are calling on UEFA to re-examine the new regulations and to change the system. I will also appeal to the DFB for extra payments from TV, should we reach the last eight.

"We must not lose out by comparison with those German clubs who are in the other tournaments. It is also unjust that in the Champions League we are not allowed to carry on with our independent sponsorship. Our sponsors are upset because they are missing out since UEFA have collared exclusive rights.

"UEFA are determined to help the small clubs. But surely the priority must be given to the successful clubs. At least the new semi-finals should provide more excitement and a new source of income."

CORRIERE DELLO SPORT (Italy)

THERE'S no peace for Lazio. Nor for Paul Gascoigne.

Every time he goes back to his homeland he is greeted with whistles and jeers and endless "revelations" about his supposed health problems.

From alcoholism to bulimia, too much beer or too much food. Which are we to believe? Perhaps both.

Perhaps neither. Maybe he is able to go past three or four defenders because they are too preoccupied wondering about the stories themselves.

Joking apart, perhaps it's time Gazza cut himself off from his own country. There he is detested with the same intensity with which he is loved in Italy.

Here, in one year, Gazza has had no problems. He should think about changing his nationality. This, now, is his home. His life is here. Here people ask about his weight only out of concern for what he can achieve on the pitch.

And nobody here is interested in fussing over his relationship with Sheryl.

FRANCE FOOTBALL

SIXTEEN years after he left Saint Etienne as skipper and star midfielder for journalism and television, Jean-Michel Larque unexpectedly returns to his old club . . . as managing director.

"I'm not at all scared," he says. "It's not a crazy gamble. After 15 years of professionalism, 15 years of journalism, it seemed opportune to me to do something else. I'm made like that.

"All my life has revolved around the ball. Playing, commentating, magazine work. I've never been away from it. To become a director is the logical development of my passion.

"I've never felt the loss of playing football. The best years of my life were when I was playing for Saint Etienne.

"I felt tense before doing my first television commentary. I thought at the time I'd go through a rather bad stage, feel passive, become really ill. And then, not at all. I immediately realised I'd experience no frustration.

"I learned a lot of things from journalism. When you're a player, your field of vision stops at the barriers which surround the ground. As a journalist, I discovered the environment, the side-issues, the publicity, the media. All the other things that make up the football world.

"I earnestly hope what I learned will serve me well in my new job.

"It's true I wasn't known as a run-of-the-mill player. I was a professor of gymnastics, kept in touch with the doings of the players' union, was interested in the relations between the League and the Federation. I wasn't really representative of the average pro.

"I don't believe the club lacks ambition. If Gerald Passi said so, it is a good thing. But we're going to give him reasons to re-motivate himself. Jacquot [Jacques Santini, club manager and former team-mate] explained our new ambitions to the players at length.

"He told them that the playing staff would be re-modelled. We're going to instil a new spirit in the club.

"My relations with Santini are very good. We both know football well enough to know where and when our respective duties stop. My job will be to choose and delegate."

who consider it a piece of nonsense — like Hristo Stoichkov, for example, or Michael Laudrup, although he won't say so publicly, or like all those members who believe that extra foreigners turn the dressing room into a volcano.

Romario is a double-edged sword.

The pressure he exerts on the other players can be inspiring . . . or devastating. With his presence, Cruyff may get 200 per cent out of his other foreign players or risk being distracted all season through.

Romario isn't an easy man to handle.

He's arrived convinced he will be a regular starter in every game. But Laudrup and Stoichkov won't want to play the gentleman and stand back for him to play in their place. Nobody will willingly give away minutes, prestige and money.

Time will tell.

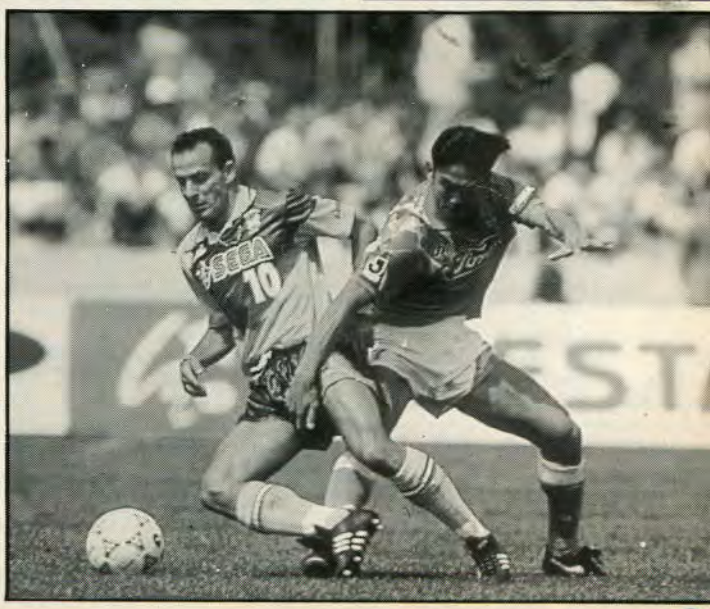
Japan's press praise the J.league

JAPANESE newspapers have hailed Japan's new professional J.League, saying the sport has taken its place in two short months as a part of the national culture.

THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN, Japan's top-selling newspaper, said: "The league has exceeded expectations.

"There were full houses everywhere. Its popularity was due to a feeling that the game was new and exciting, to attacking teams, strong foreign players and fast play."

"Now, sports typical of Japan are not just sumo wrestling and baseball. We can say that soccer has taken root as a new sport in the national culture."



Heading for trouble . . . Jean-Jacques Eydelie (6) in action for Marseille during the ill-fated match against Valenciennes.

A shadow over 1998

Marseille case mars World Cup preparations

THE horrific Marseille case casts a long shadow over France's staging of the World Cup in 1998.

The one slight consolation, without going all the way with the wretched Eydelie, is that things just as bad, and worse, have happened in Italian football.

Yet Italy put on the World Cup in 1990, and there were no complaints of any kind of corruption by the host team.

When President Mitterand planted the kiss of death on Bernard Tapie's brow, you knew things could only get worse, even if Tapie is renowned as one of the great escapologists of our time.

Accusations have been hurled at him for years, but there he still is, or was, able to rebuild a political career which seemed in ruins, able to take Marseille to the very pinnacle of European soccer.

Mitterand, with his dubious record in the early days of the Vichy Government, with his dubious friends — one recently was shot dead in his own apartment, before belated trial accused of horrific war crimes — was hardly the man to set doubts at rest.

The ineffable Bernes, seemingly the embodiment of total silence, has unswervingly denied yet again any involvement in the bribery of Valenciennes players, despite the testimony sworn by those players.

Then there has been the Primorac affair; the allegation by the Valenciennes manager that he was offered money and another job if he would testify that he was the guilty party, that it was he who had, believe it or not, initiated the whole shabby affair.

Some of the public statements made by those involved and accused have been quite hair-raising.

Here are the words of one of the accused Valenciennes players, Jacques Glassman, speaking of Eydelie, who was alleged to have given another player, Christophe Robert, the money that was buried in his garden.

"He was sure of himself. Aggressive with the judge. So sure of himself.

"That's what shocked me the most. I asked him, 'Why are you doing this, Jean-Jacques?' He looked me in the eyes and replied, 'It wasn't me at the bottom of it, Jacques.' . . . (I said) One knows it was you. You gave money to Christophe's wife. It wasn't a phantom. It was you.

"He looked me in the face again and repeated, 'I swear to you that it wasn't me.' With a confident air.

"I asked myself, am I dreaming? It's not possible to lie like that."

But of course it was; until Eydelie's wife stepped into the frame.

That is not the first of such scandals in French football. Roger Rocher, much esteemed, pipe-smoking president of Saint Etienne, in their great days, went to jail.

Claude Bez, the overbearing president of Bordeaux, was disgraced in his turn. Neither had the sheer political clout of Bernard Tapie. Nobody at Presidential level spoke up for them.

Abedi Pele must be glad that he has left. He was close to doing so a year ago, but Tapie eventually persuaded him to stay. He must be quite glad about that, too, because it enabled him to win a Champions' Cup medal.

Now he continues his travels by moving to Olympique Lyon.

He's delighted to do so, he says, even if Lyon won't be playing in Europe. The aim is to win the championship and play in Europe next season. Quite a long shot.

Pele says that Marseille's decision to sign Paolo Futre from Benfica had no effect on his decision. "At Marseille, we were not in agreement on a lot of things. I'm quite simply someone who likes challenges, but I'm not afraid of Futre or anyone else."

Nor is he worried about pressures at Lyon, where his arrival has created a great stir. "I know that everyone has huge expectations of me. But I cannot do everything on my own. Everyone will be involved."

The fact that Jean Tigana, that wonderfully elegant midfielder who adorned so many French national teams, was manager certainly played a part in Pele's decision to join Lyon.

"I've confidence in him. I knew that Olmeta — the Marseille keeper — and Amoros were coming to Lyon and that we would have a good hand to play."

The transfer market was indeed busy, with Paris Saint-Germain, bitter rivals and pursuers of Marseille, ready to replace them in the Champions' Cup if necessary, reinforcing to substantial purpose.

Caen could not keep the prolific Gravelaine after such a flurry of League goals and a place in the French international side, as well.

Now he will not be a big fish in a small pond, but he will have two splendid Brazilian midfielders, Valdo and the lofty Rai, fresh from Sao Paulo and the World Cup qualifiers, to make the bullets for him to fire.

Monaco have let that splendid little winger Fofana move to Bordeaux, but have a new, distinguished general in midfield, in the shape of Enzo Scifo, the Belgian international who returns to France from Torino.

Bordeaux say all five players they have signed have "revenge" to exact.

True, surely, of Richard Witschge, who had a frustrating time with Barcelona while his brother flourished.

ANDRE DUCLOS

Bound for Bordeaux . . . Richard Witschge.

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INSIDE OUT

AN IRREGULAR COMPILATION OF IRREVERANT COMMENT

Effenberg's summer of discontent

GERMAN midfielder Stefan Effenberg (right) threatened to go on strike if relegated Fiorentina would not sell, or at least lend, him to a Serie A side this coming season.

Serie B rules allow two, rather than three, foreign players. Argentine forward Gabriel Batistuta is happy to stay with the club while Denmark's Brian Laudrup was loaned to Milan — which infuriated Effenberg.

He said: "If I'm not playing top-level football next season I can wave goodbye to a place in the German team at the World Cup Finals. Fiorentina must let me go, they owe me that."

Effenberg said he may refuse to play in Serie B, but Fiorentina president Mario Cecchi Gori was unimpressed, saying: "Either he plays for us or he sits out the entire season.

"Then we'll see how much chance he has of playing in the World Cup."

Bad King Wenceslao

A DOPING scandal in Chile has emerged which makes Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia seem like innocent angels.

Wenceslao Aguilera, a paramedic with Iberia in Chile's Third Division, has been arrested after giving his own team's players sleeping pills!

Aguilera has admitted to police that he told the players they were taking vitamin pills, but would not say who paid him to dope the team.

It is alleged that Wenceslao received just $250 to dope the Iberia team before a crucial promotion decider with Mulchen, which they lost 3-0.

Iberia's president Carlos Contreras told the Santiago newspaper *El Mercurio* that the pills were clearly the reason for his players' poor performance.

"They showed a strange apathy and lack of coordination," he said. Perhaps this explains England's recent displays in Poland and Norway!

The ultimate World Cup veteran

A NUMBER of former players were working for the media at the recent Copa America in Ecuador — Pele with Brazilian TV, Cesar Menotti, former Argentina coach, as commentator on Ecuadorian TV, former Argentine international Marcelo Trobbiani as commentator for radio in Ecuador . . . former Peruvian international Teofilo Cubillas as commentator on his country's TV network.

Then there was Uruguayan Luis Sciuto, also a former player but now better known by his pen-name, Diego Lucero, and as the only man who has covered every World Cup.

He celebrated his 92nd birthday in Guayaquil, is still writing for Argentine newspapers and is hoping to cover World Cup '94 next year too . . . quite a record.

Stretching a point

SOCCER advertising moved into a new dimension at the Copa America in Ecuador . . . with the name of a soft drink even appearing on stretchers used to remove injured players from the pitch.

Referees were told not to allow players to be treated on the pitch, which meant the frequent use of stretchers by the Ecuadorian paramedics.

The drinks company in question obviously recognised this as a good opportunity to splash their name all over the screen every time a player went down injured — a worthwhile ploy when you remember that this was a *South American* tournament.

More Taylor torment

GRAHAM TAYLOR'S problems simply will not go away. Taylor (above) might be interested to know about a candidate who ran in the Christchurch Parliamentary by-election.

Peter Newman, 32, contested the seat as the "Sack Graham Taylor Party".

Newman dreamed up the idea after England's humiliating defeats in Norway and America, and canvassed voters in the town in full England strip carrying banners with Taylor's head depicted as a turnip.

"The only chance we have is a new manager. The FA won't listen — so the only way is for me to get in to Parliament and boot him out," Newman said.

If elected, Newman also promised to confiscate John Barnes's passport . . . so the Liverpool striker cannot play any more "disappointing" games for England.

Perhaps Mr Newman is not as crazy as he seems!

Straight from the horse's mouth

HAVE you ever noticed that, whenever the England team struggles, various old has-beens crop up in the newspapers offering their considered opinions?

After England's disastrous summer performances it was inevitable that the usual faces would appear, bleating and whining about sacking Graham Taylor, but Mick Channon takes the biscuit!

Channon (right), the former Southampton and England forward who is now a successful horse trainer, appeared in a recent Sunday paper demanding that his old pal Kevin Keegan be immediately appointed England manager.

"Make Kevin Keegan England boss — NOW. He's the only possible hope we have of qualifying for next summer's World Cup Finals," said Channon.

But later in the article Channon came up with this classic comment: "Being away from football as I have been, I can sit back and appraise the international scene." How, we ask, by studying runners and riders?

Transports of delight

ALL football grounds have their own unique atmospheres and oddities, but some have very peculiar stories to tell. Here are just a few examples of grounds which have close links with road, rail and water-borne transport.

Atletico Madrid's Estadio Vicente Calderon is situated right by the River Manzanares, and has the Madrid M30 ring road running directly under the west stand. Similarly Celta Vigo's Estadio Balaidos straddles the murky Lagares river.

Dublin's Lansdowne Road (below) also has a strange feel to it. Running directly under the west stand is the main Dublin-Dun Laoghaire DART railway line, which emerges into a small station just across Lansdowne Road itself.

To enter the rear of the west stand there are tunnels under the railway line, and a level-crossing over Lansdowne Road brings big-match traffic to a standstill every time a train trundles through.

The link between railways and football grounds is particularly prevalent in London.

Somewhere under the pitch at Wembley Stadium a railway engine is buried. During construction of the stadium in 1922, an engine being used to ferry materials around the site came off the rails and sank into the mud. The workers, mostly Irish, decided it would be too difficult to recover it so they covered it over and it is still there today.

Also in West London, the terraces at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground were constructed using thousands of tons of clay excavated from the nearby District Line of the London Underground.

Arsenal are the only club who can claim to have a London Underground station named after them. Others, such as West Ham, Wimbledon and Watford, may share their name with a tube station, but only Arsenal have a station named *after* them.

That came about in 1932 when manager Herbert Chapman persuaded London Transport to change the name of Gillespie Road station, adjacent to the ground, to Arsenal.

Arsenal's North Bank also has a hidden secret buried beneath it. In 1931 the club appealed to local people to donate rubbish to help build up the banking for the North Bank. A local coal merchant responded, but backed up too near the hole dug for the terrace, and both horse and cart fell in. The horse was so badly injured it had to be put down and remains there to this day.

Liverpool continue the transport and football tradition at their Anfield groud. The Kop, previously uncovered, was given a roof in the 1920s and a white flagpole was erected on the corner of Kemlyn Road. This pole had been the top mast of the Great Eastern, one of the first iron ships, which was broken up in the Mersey in 1888 and used as part of a fun fair.

When the Kop was completed, the pole was ferried across the Mersey and hauled up to Anfield by a team of horses.

Holiday? What holiday?

THIS has been a busy summer for Phil Whelan, the Ipswich Town centre-back.

Whelan, 20, was a regular in the Premier League last season while studying for an accountancy degree at the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

When the season ended he passed his final exams and then played for the England Under-21 side in the annual Toulon Tournament, even getting on the scoresheet.

But Whelan's work did not end there . . . he then captained the Great Britain team at the World Student Games soccer tournament in Buffalo, before returning to Ipswich just in time to begin pre-season training!

A SCHOOLBOY fan of Honved has produced Hungary's first football fanzine.

Radovan Radosevics, 16, who is selling copies of *Tribun* on the terraces at Honved, said: "I got to know a lot about what was going on on the terraces and it made me want to set up my own magazine."

***Tribun*, naturally, is not too kind to Honved's great rivals Ferencvaros, whose thug element are among the most feared in the country. "I daren't go anywhere near the place," he said.**

FootNotes

● FORMER Corinthians and Brazil player Socrates is embarking on a new career in politics.

Doctor Socrates has joined the left-wing Workers Party and is considering running for mayor in Riberao Preto, where he began his playing career with Botafogo.

● FEW players can have had as bad a year as Benfica defender Mozer.

He missed the first half of the season with injury and has now been axed by Brazil without playing a game. Mozer turned up late for training with the Brazilian World Cup squad, blaming a legal dispute with a Portuguese newspaper — who alleged that he had AIDS — for his late arrival.

Brazil manager Carlos Alberto Parreira was not impressed, saying: "We can't wait any longer, the team's time is too short."

● FORMER Argentine World Cup-winner Jorge Burruchaga (right in red) is finished in France, after his part in the Marseille match-fixing scandal, according to French League president Noel Le Graet.

"World Cup-winner or not, I can't imagine any other French club wanting anything to do with him now or ever again," said Le Graet.

Burruchaga at first denied all knowledge of the scandal but later admitted his involvement.

● THE recent Copa America in Ecuador was more like a gathering of European soccer coaches than a South American championship.

Europeans were in charge of five of the 12 teams and four of them came from what used to be Yugoslavia — Dusan Draskovic (Ecuador), Bora Milutinovic (US), Vladimir Popovic (Peru), and Radomir Djukovic (Venezuela). Bolivia were under Spanish coach Javier Azkargorta.

● MARSEILLE are in trouble again . . . this time with their neighbours. Apparently their public address system at the Stade Velodrome is so loud it can be heard by people living up to a mile from the ground!

● NORWAY'S female footballers are European Champions for the second time. They beat Italy 1-0 in Cesena, with a goal by Hegstad, to claim their second title, their previous success was in 1987.

● JACK CHARLTON has recently had the kind of financial problems most people can only dream about.

While checking his bank statements the Republic of Ireland boss was mystified as to why cheques he had written had not passed through his account.

He soon discovered the reason. All over Dublin, bars and restaurants where Charlton — a hero in Ireland — has dined have framed cheques he has given them, and mounted them on the wall!

● SKIPPER Viv Anderson had to wait for his FA Cup medal after Sheffield Wednesday's defeat by Arsenal. The 13 players in the replay received their losing medals on the night, but there was not one left over for Anderson, who had played in the drawn game but missed the second match because of injury.

Wednesday applied, on his behalf, and another medal was specially struck for him.

COMPILED BY DAVID PROLE AND JOHN KELLY

SPOTLIGHT ON
ROMARIO

BRILLIANT OR BROODY?

The enigma of Nou Camp

A THREE-YEAR contract signed by Brazilian striker Romario was succinctly explained by Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff.

"He is an exceptional player and we have signed him to put constant pressure on our other three foreigners."

The immediate challenge for the talented but anarchical scorer therefore boils down to kicking Ronald Koeman, Michael Laudrup or, most probably, Hristo Stoichkov out of the line-up.

Cruyff sees Romario, top scorer in last season's Champions League, as a trump card in Barcelona's bid to regain the Champions' Cup they won in 1992.

His signing from PSV involved months of haggling with hands finally shaken over £2.3 million in cash plus a further £700,000 guaranteed to the Dutch club via a series of exhibition matches Barcelona have agreed to play.

Not a bad price for a top-class scorer.

Romario da Souza Faria was delighted with the move and, at 27, is already telling the Catalan fans he'll be happy to retire at the Nou Camp. Yet

he is renowned just as much for his airs as for his graces, and remains an enigma.

His contribution to Brazil's Italia '90 campaign was limited to 65 minutes against Scotland and he was excluded from the US '94 qualifiers after telling coaches Carlos Alberto Parreira and Mario Zagalo, in typical prima donna fashion, that he was better than Bebeto, Careca and company.

With Stoichkov describing the signing of Romario as "sheer stupidity", Cruyff will need to take constant pollution readings to ensure that the air in the dressing-room does not become thick enough to cut with a knife, especially as Ronald Koeman's brother Erwin was one of the many team-mates to cross swords with Romario during his five years in Holland.

Personality versus performance has been the conundrum which has marked his career. Coaches such as Guus Hiddink, Bobby Robson and Hans Westerhof never really decided whether to love him or hate him.

Training, he made clear, was a waste of calories, and the first word he learned in Dutch was "tired".

He collected fines and suspensions for flying down to Rio without permission, and even when he had it his return flights tended to suffer delays measurable in days rather than minutes.

Holding up "9" when making a substitution was to risk ranting, raving, sulking or another dash to the airport. All of which constitutes a stark contrast with Romario's humble upbringing in the suburbs of Rio.

Like many kids in Villa Pena, he scraped together a few cruzeiros by cleaning windscreens at traffic-lights, and hints of his ability to earn money from football emerged only when his dad took him to join the Olaria junior side.

His next break came when Vasco da Gama signed him after watching him score all four goals against them in a friendly. He went on to become their top scorer in the 1986 and 1988 championships, with 20 and 16 goals respectively.

When he left, his overall total stood at 73 goals in 123 matches.

The international breakthrough also came in 1988. Wearing 11 and operating wide-ish to Careca's left, he scored seven times to become the top scorer in the Seoul Olympics, although a 2-1 defeat by the Soviet Union in the final left him with just a gold.

He had barely returned to Rio when his sale to PSV Eindhoven was sealed.

Philips saved nearly half of a $3million price by cunningly instructing their Brazilian subsidiary to buy discounted dollars in the overseas-debt market, and off went Romario and Monica (their wedding ceremony was conducted in the centre circle of a football pitch) to a vastly different habitat in Eindhoven.

His constant complaints that the cold climate made him "stay in too much" were matched by a constant stream of goals interrupted only by the broken tibia sustained against Den Haag during the 1989-90 season and various attempts to warm his blood in Rio.

The Dutch fans immediately took to the little Brazilian with the ability to produce the unexpected and, so it seemed, to score goals whenever he felt like it.

The goal he scored against Milan in the Champions League, by biding his time, flicking the ball up and clipping into the far corner over his left shoulder, was an impressive compendium of his abilities.

In his first three seasons he was Holland's top scorer, before injury reduced his 1991-92 campaign to 16 competitive matches and transferred the limelight to Dennis Bergkamp.

Even so, he has left PSV after 125 League, Cup and European goals in five seasons. "I have done all I can at this club," was his parting shot. "I never want to return to Holland."

Cruyff promptly took him to a pre-season training camp near Groningen.

Romario now has to adapt to the rigours of the Spanish League, knuckle down to life under the disciplinarian Cruyff, and accept that he has entered a Milan-style situation where not all the foreigners can play and where, for the first time in his career, he is not an automatic choice.

Which Romario will emerge? The brilliantly inventive scorer who thrills the fans? Or the brooding rebel who rocks the boat?

GRAHAM TURNER

PRO-FILE

ROMARIO Da Souza Faria

BARCELONA AND BRAZIL

Born: January 29, 1966, in Rio de Janeiro.

Previous clubs: Olaria, Vasco da Gama, PSV Eindhoven.

International caps: 28 (12 goals).

HONOURS

Rio State Championship: 1987, 1988 *(with Vasco da Gama).*

Dutch League: 1989, 1991, 1992 *(with PSV).*

Dutch Cup: 1989, 1990 *(with PSV).*

Copa America: 1989.

Splashing out

Deportivo spend for extra strength

BARCELONA and Real Madrid are favourites to dominate the new Spanish season — what's new? — but Deportivo La Coruna are determined to break the Big Two's nine-year stranglehold on the title.

Their only noticeable absentee from the side finishing third last season is central defender **Alberto Albistegui**, who was out of contract and accepted an offer from **John Toshack** to join Real Sociedad, but Deportivo have made five signings at a cost not far short of £3m.

Arsenio Iglesias's side played consistently attractive football — arguably superior, over the whole campaign, to the offerings from Barca and Real — but in a quarter of a century as a manager he has become shrewd enough to realise that his squad breasted the finishing line at the end of their tether, despite an early Cup exit.

This season, with the UEFA Cup thrown in, is likely to be an even harder haul, and club president **Augusto Cesar Lendoiro** has invested heavily with a view to building a squad who can have a serious tilt at the big boys, not only in terms of quality football but also strength in depth.

Deportivo also are aware that two key figures, **Bebeto** and **Mauro Silva**, will start with the weight of Brazil's World Cup qualifying programme already on their shoulders.

The reinforcements started with **Salvador Gonzalez**, alias Voro, a big centre-back who arrived free of charge from Valencia.

Next came **Donato** and **Alfredo**, victims of Jesus Gil's hatchet job at Atletico Madrid.

Donato, once with **Bebeto** at Vasco da Gama but naturalised after marrying a Spanish girl, can operate either in Mauro Silva's holding role in midfield or in the middle of the defence.

Alfredo, 25, is one of the many players squeezed into bit parts in an Atletico midfield full of big stars.

Pedro Riesco, who had an outstanding season in the Rayo Vallecano midfield, also will provide valuable industry in the Deportivo engine room while the surprise signing, **Javier Manjarin** from Gijon, can supply valuable ammunition from the left.

"Manja", 23, had been widely tipped as a Barcelona recruit but now heads down the Atlantic coast instead of crossing to the Med.

Deportivo, although unhappy about starting with a tough Galician derby against Celta, should have enough quality and cover to mount another serious title challenge and establish themselves in the top bracket.

Atletico Madrid, on the other hand, start as an unknown quantity.

The photographers who snapped away at last season's photo-call might need some help with their captions this time round.

Absent friends include **Futre, Schuster, Mejias, Donato, Alfredo, Moya, Aguillera, Acosta, Alfaro** and **Orejuela**, and the only signs of stability are in the defence.

Gil's disgust with a team who crept into Europe via sixth place has produced such sweeping changes that clear pictures of the new Atletico do not even reach identikit status.

The man required to produce the re-awakening of the "mattress-makers" is new, too.

Jair Pereira has arrived from Brazil with a one-year contract and optimistic hopes of fulfilling it.

Gil was keen to entrust what he calls his "seventh blueprint" to a Brazilian architect.

Having failed to seduce **Tele Santana** and **Carlos Alberto Silva**, his eyes lighted on Jair Pereira as the ideal man to convert **Moacir** into the new Schuster and Polish striker **Roman Kosecki** into the new Futre.

Pereira won the World Youth Championship for Brazil in 1983 and his management career at club level includes spells at Campo Grande, Paysandu, El Chabab in Saudi Arabia and Al Khazira in the United Arab Emirates. Back in Brazil he had been coach for one day at Atletico Mineiro before accepting Atletico's offer.

Elsewhere, the close season has been marked by the austerity imposed by the clubs' new status as limited companies.

Under Spanish legislation, any clubs with wage payments still outstanding by August are threatened with immediate relegation, and the statistics could create the impression that business sense has prevailed.

Only Rayo Vallencano and Burgos from last season's First Division were denounced by players owned money.

Rayo sorted out their problems with **Toni Polster** by allowing him to join Koln, leaving the garden seemingly clean and tidy. The molehills, the weeds and great heaps of manure are to be found in the Second Division.

Nine clubs in Division 2A were the object of claims totalling £1.3 million, headed by already-relegated Sabadell, where **Thomas N'Kono** and his colleagues claimed £533,000.

Further relegation for non-payment of wages would take the club through the floor into the regional leagues and, probably, out of business.

In the four regional groups of Division 2B, no fewer than 45 clubs were the object of claims totalling £4.3m.

Again, relegation for non-payment would be ruinous and 2B or not 2B is most certainly the question.

Curiously, the figures for Division 2A show an enormous improvement on the two previous seasons, whereas 2B's plight is the worst on record.

The trend is for top clubs not to risk flirtation with relegation and to steer clear of investments which might take them into the red. Apart from Atletico, only four of the 20 First Division clubs have changed managers.

Luis Aragones, Atletico's boss at last year's photocall, has taken over from **Carlos Bilardo**, who left with over 150 kilos of excess baggage to show for his season at Sevilla.

Real Madrid's reserve-team coach, **Mariano Garcia Remon**, has taken over at Sporting Gijon, Jose Antonio Camacho's move to relegated Espanol allowed **Felix Borderas**, alias "Felines", to go to Rayo Vallecano, and **Javier Irureta** has replaced **Paquito** at newly-promoted Racing Santander.

La Coruna's key men . . . Bebeto (left) and Mauro Silva.

Adios, Atocha

THERE was an element of masochism about playing at San Sebastian's ground, Atocha.

A quick trip through the Old Town from the beautiful Concha beach, a hop over the River Urumea, a right turn, and there was the stadium — inaugurated on October 4, 1913, seemingly untouched ever since, blackened by eight decades of proximity to the Bay of Biscay and the antithesis of "all mod cons."

The visitors' dressing-room and the interview room were scarcely big enough to swing a crayfish.

The press box was in an obscure corner.

The dug-outs were not even big enough for five substitutes.

Atocha was grim, and everybody loved it. The crowd were on top of the pitch, the turf and drainage let the ball run sweetly, the atmosphere was great.

This was a real old-fashioned football ground, with room for about 27,000 sardines on the terraces.

Atocha was pensioned off at the end of last season. Real Sociedad, having opened the doors with a pre-season friendly against Real Madrid, are set to make their debut in the spanking new stadium at Anoieta, against Zaragoza on September 12.

The mod cons are there in full glory, but they include an athletics track which displeases the Atocha die-hards and make John Toshack's boys wonder if they will miss that special motivation from a crowd literally right behind them.

To Anoieta and all who sail in her. But there'll be a nostalgic tear or two.

Versatile . . . La Coruna's Donato.

GRAHAM TURNER

Versatility rules

REAL MADRID tighten the back. Barcelona strengthen the front. There is no alternative but to resort to the old, reliable axiom of "time will tell" but the pattern of close-season signings at the Big Two could be significant.

Real, suffering cash-flow problems, have been toying with the idea of rescinding their relationship with the DORNA organisation.

In 1990 club and company signed an immensely complex 25-year deal which should have brought in just over £50m by 1993. Real claim that DORNA have not honoured their contract either in financial terms or in agreements to build a new sports complex.

All this left Real with limited cash for investment during the close season, and significantly, Benito Floro has given top priority to defensive players.

He wanted Sao Paulo's Cafu, but his club will not release him until after the defence of their World Club Championship title in Tokyo in December.

The next step was curious: Sao Paulo persuaded Real to take Cafu's understudy, Vitor, in the meantime.

Real will maintain their option to buy Cafu in December, and also have an option on Vitor if he performs well during the trial period.

Cruyff's spending money at Barcelona also has been limited, but Richard Witschge's sale to Bordeaux put some cash in the till.

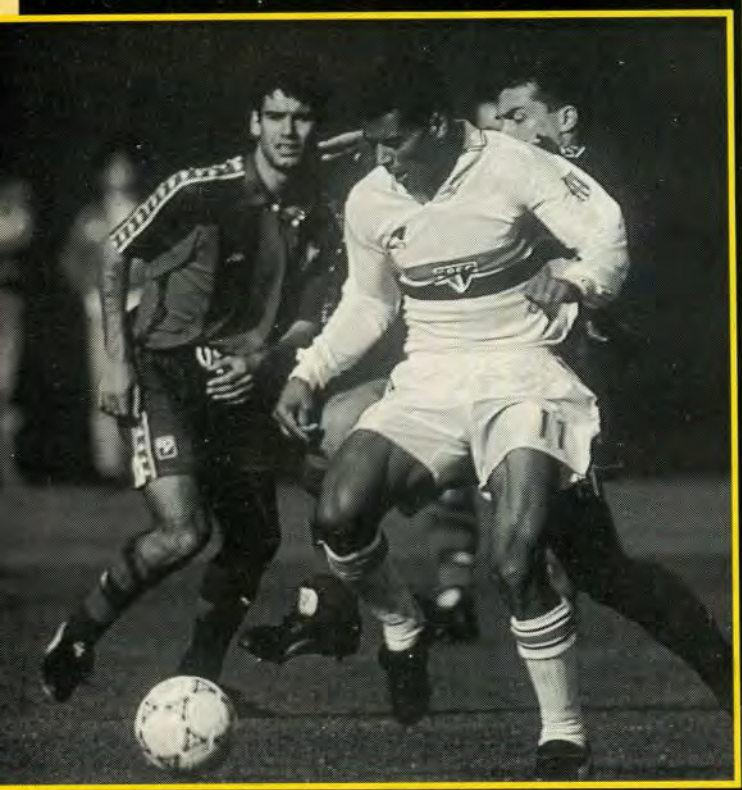
Unlike Floro, however, Cruyff has invested in attacking players. Apart from Romario, he has engaged midfielder Ivan Iglesias from Gijon and international inside-forward Quique Estebaranz from Tenerife.

When Cruyff took over in 1988 he had 11 defenders in his squad. Now, with Jose Alexanko retiring at 37 and Ricardo Serna leaving for La Coruna, he has decided to transfer-list Miguel Soler and Pablo Alfaro, although at the time of writing neither left-footer had found a club.

If they go, Cruyff will be left with three specialised defenders — Ronald Koeman, Albert Ferrer and Juan Carlos. Cruyff's addiction to versatile players has led midfielders Miguel Angel Nadal and Eusebio Sacristan plus winger Andoni Goicoechea to operate in defensive roles.

Cruyff's assistant, Tony Bruins, says: "In some games we're going to operate with only two at the back."

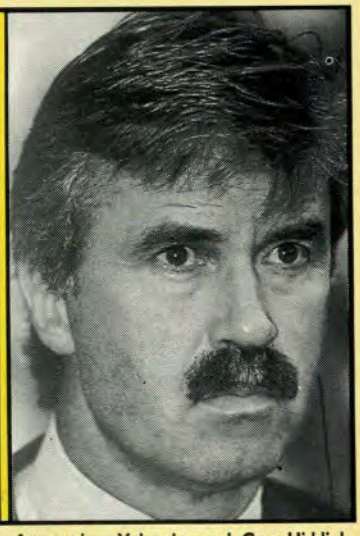
When the "Vacancies" sign goes up at Nou Camp these days it is accompanied by "Defenders need not Apply".



In demand . . . Real Madrid want Cafu (white strip), but Sao Paulo will not release him.

Fed up in Bilbao, disgusted in Valencia

Angry . . . Bilbao coach Jupp Heynckes.



Annoyed . . . Valencia coach Guus Hiddink.

Jupp's fed up and Guus is disgusted. That's the message from Bilbao and Valencia, where Messrs. Heynckes and Hiddink, although retaining their managerial jobs, did not return from holiday chirping like budgies.

Both have been rubbed up the wrong way by boardroom inhabitants.

Jupp Heynckes blew the dust off his suntan oil having sorted out the squad for the new season and having been assured by Athletic Bilbao's president, Jose Julian Lertxundi, that no key players were to be sold.

Heynckes could have been less than halfway down the bottle when international central defender Rafael Alkorta was sold to Real Madrid for £2million, the highest fee ever for a Bilbao player.

Fans made their displeasure known in no uncertain fashion, while Alkorta added fuel to the flames by insisting he never wanted to go.

He said that the Real manager, Benito Floro, had talked him into it, and that if Heynckes had been half as diligent in trying to retain him, he would have told Lertxundi he was staying. Jupp's anger was partially appeased when Inigo Larrainzar was signed from Osasuna to replace Alkorta.

Down on the Costa Blanca, Guus Hiddink has established a sweet-as-sandpaper relationship with the Valencia directors.

Hiddink was keen to sign Romario, a player he had worked with at PSV.

The directors said he was too expensive. Then Hiddink wanted Brian Laudrup when Fiorentina were relegated, but the directors were too slow off the mark.

No reinforcements had materialised apart from Jesus Serer, an end-of-contract full-back from Second Division Mallorca.

The board then announced that Guus was being relieved of his duties as what the Spaniards call "technical secretary", which means that he is no longer in charge of recommending signings.

Bernardino Perez, alias "Pasiegquito", was given that job and Predrag Mijatovic was promptly signed from Partizan Belgrade.

He is a 24-year-old midfielder, one of Prosinecki's companions in the Yugoslav side who won the World Youth Tournament in Chile in 1987, who has won 10 full caps.

Many fans rate the £1.4million price as excessive, and the Spanish government rate it as downright illegal.

The Foreign Office in Madrid opened an investigation into the transfer — Mijatovic was affected by the UN blockade on Serbia — but the diplomatic bloodhounds seemed to lose the scent somewhere in downtown Luxembourg.

GRAHAM TURNER

HOLLAND.....

Rijkaard returns as a chairman quits

THE Dutch transfer market has been one of the strangest for years, with the emphasis on outgoings rather than players coming in.

PSV's Romario has gone to Barcelona and Gerald Vanenburg has gone to join names like Gary Lineker and Pierre Littbarski in Japan.

Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk have left Ajax for Internazionale, Marciano Vink has joined Genoa, and Alfons Groenendijk, a midfielder, has gone to Manchester City.

On the credit side in Holland, Frank Rijkaard (above) has come home to Amsterdam, joining Ajax from Milan.

So, too, has Peter Van Vossen, the 25-year-old striker who was good enough for Holland, but spent most of his time with Anderlecht on the bench.

On top of that a chairman — Jacques Ruts of PSV — will publicly inform his club during their October annual meeting that he is stepping down after 10 years because he accepts responsibility for the flops of last season.

Ruts says: "I am the chairman, and I feel responsible for what has happened. Therefore I'm sacking myself."

The position of general manager Kees Ploegsma is still in doubt.

But the fact that he virtually runs the club on his own certainly makes his position more difficult to solve.

Rijkaard kept Ajax in the dark for a longer period than was expected. He said he wanted a good holiday before deciding, despite the fact that he knew Ajax wanted him, and he wanted to return.

He made his debut for Ajax in 1980, and eight years later was sold to Sporting Lisbon.

He had a spell on loan to Real Zaragoza, and after the 1988 European Championship in Germany he moved on to Milan.

As Rijkaard has said: "I had to get away from football for six weeks, to relax and think about my future.

"Six clubs contacted me, but Ajax were the only Dutch club to do so.

"I felt it was logical that I should finish my career with the club where it began."

Rijkaard cost Ajax around £510,000 — because Milan's owner and president, Silvio Berlusconi, let him go cheaply "thanks to his services to Milan".

Ajax could have had Romario de Souza Faria for at least £1 million more, but decided not to.

Strangely enough, they signed Van Vossen for around £2.5 million more.

Feyenoord, the new Dutch champions, are the quiet club of Holland. No real activity in the transfer market, no background squabbles, and nothing sensational happening — apart from recovery after big financial problems and entry into this season's Champions' Cup.

This is going to be a most interesting season for PSV. Hans Westerhof (above), who was the chief coach after Bobby Robson, has been "relegated" to youth coach, and Aad de Mos is the man expected to rescue the club after last year's disappointments.

They were made to look like amateurs in the Champions League, were kicked out of the FA Cup, and then lost their Premier Division title to Feyenoord.

ERIC NICHOLLS

AUSTRIA.....

Title-winner Stessl suffers again

THE summer break was dominated by managerial changes involving several top clubs.

A poor start to the championship play-off in the spring led FK Austria to decide, seven weeks before the end of the season, not to renew Hermann Stessl's contract.

They even named his successor — Josef Hickersberger, a former national team manager, lately with Fortuna Dusseldorf.

But the players appeared to side with their old coach, did not lose another point in the last six matches, and won the championship for the third year running! For poor old Stessl it was business as usual.

In 1979 and 1980 he led the "Violets" to the title and each time he was replaced. Even when he returned to Vienna and took the club to the double in 1986, he was sacked again.

The new man in charge at Wacker Innsbruck is a German, Horst Koppel, who was once assistant to the national team boss and lately coach to Dusseldorf.

He saw his new team in action winning the OFB (FA) Cup.

Koppel, who signed a two-year contract, was impressed, saying: "If this team is kept together than it could go places. Certainly this match was on a par with the German Cup Final."

Admira/Wacker's German team chief, Siggi Held, has left to take over at Dynamo Dresden.

Held persuaded Olaf Marschall, who was Admira's top scorer last season, that a return to eastern Germany under new conditions was infinitely more profitable than staying put in impoverished Austria.

The only snag was the transfer fee: Dresden were not prepared to break the bank and Admira were determined to hold out for as much as they could get for the prolific marksman.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

SWITZERLAND.....

Sforza goes after topping poll

THE Footballer of the Year in Switzerland is midfielder Ciriaco Sforza (right) of Grasshopper, a pillar of the currently highly successful national side, who are on course to reach the World Cup finals.

He was a clear winner with 48 points ahead of defender Marc Hottiger (30) from Sion and libero Roberto Di Matteo (Aarau) and forward Alain Sutter (Grasshopper), both on 22.

Only players and team managers of the eight clubs involved in the championship play-offs were allowed to vote.

But Sforza, the first winner selected from the relegation pool is leaving Grasshopper for Germany's Kaiserslautern.

In a separate poll the Brazilian Anderson da Silva (Servette) was voted the best foreigner, while Stephane Henchoz (Xamax Neuchatel) was the best newcomer.

The Team manager of the Year is the Austrian Rolf Fringer, of champions Aarau.

International successes have enhanced the value of Swiss footballers on the transfer market.

Apart from Sforza there are three key members of the national side in Germany — strikers Adrian Knup (VfB Stuttgart) and Stephane Chapuisat (Borussia Dortmund), and midfielder Alain Sutter, who has just joined Nurnberg.

They cost less than some top South Americans or Europeans, but their value is rising steadily.

Aarau's star Di Matteo, of Italian descent, always wanted to play in the land of his fathers and got his wish when he was transferred to Lazio.

His replacement is Switzerland's most capped footballer, Heinz Hermann (117 internationals) who surprisingly ended his retirement at 35, lured back no doubt by the prospect of playing in the Champions' Cup.

A sad departure concerns the Norwegians "pocket dynamo" Jahn Ivar Jakobsen, top scorer for Young Boys last season with 16 goals.

He has been loaned out to newly-promoted Duisburg.

Despite savage cuts in salaries Young Boys are still struggling financially, and were forced to part with their major asset.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Top of the Swedish shop

Gustafsson gives the IFK creed

FOOTBALL in Sweden often struggles for support against the range of other leisure-time activities available.

But IFK Gothenburg are doing more than most to fly the flag and maintain their place in the community. Malmo have won more titles, but IFK are usually thought of as being ahead of the rest.

In this interview, STEFAN TARRAS talks to IFK's coach, ROGER GUSTAFSSON, about the domestic game and the club's part on the international scene.

WS: Can you tell me about your career?

RG: I was born here in Gothenburg, in February 1952, and went on to school and university. At one time I thought of being a teacher, but I started to play soccer and joined Bk and then GAIS. I also did a lot of coaching with the young players, and from 1983 to 1989 I was in charge of the IFK youth programme. Then, in December 1989, I was appointed club coach when Kjell Pettersson's contract expired.

WS: That was rather a surprise appointment for many people. Did it surprise you?

RG: Not really. By then I had been appointed to the board and we discussed the possibility of appointing a star coach from some other country. The team who won the UEFA Cup in 1982 and 1987 had broken up, and we had to rebuild. Eventually, we decided to do what Liverpool do, and appointed from within.

WS: How do you define your role?

RG: I'm there for the players — they're not there for me. I put a lot of energy and knowledge into improving their skills, making them better footballers. Clubs such as this must develop their own men, simply because football has changed so much. Now top clubs tend to be in one country only, Italy, and they are able to buy so many star men. Italian youngsters often do not get the chances they deserve, but that will not happen here. Financially we cannot compete with the Italians, so we have to groom our own kids.

WS: There must be some money available — IFK are wealthy by Swedish standards.

RG: Yes — we spent about £300,000, which is a huge sum for a Swedish club, on rebuilding the side in 1989. But compare £300,000 with what the Italians spend . . .

WS: You qualified for the Champions League in the season just ended. What are your feelings about that?

RG: We did not win the competition, so I'm not satisfied. But we did quite well, having changed our usual system slightly for European games. We still used the "pressure" game and zonal marking, but we detailed one man solely to be on hand in defence to support others who were outnumbered. We also bought Mikael Martinsson from Djurgardens to add speed to the attack.

WS: What other star players do you have on the staff?

RG: We do not have star players. Nobody who comes to this club is allowed to behave like a prima donna. When we bring somebody in, we assess their personality as well as their playing ability. We want teamwork, not irritation or aggression towards each other. We don't want rows between players, leading to transfer demands. We want controlled, combined efforts against opponents, not against ourselves.

WS: Does the fact that your players are part-timers help or hinder you?

RG: I feel that it's a help. Players rely on income from other sources, not solely from the game. They are completing their education, or they are in a profession, or they have a business of their own. So when they are with us they can relax, and improve.

WS: There is quite a lot of jealousy in Sweden towards your club. What do you think about that?

RG: All the clubs in the top two divisions accepted the present structure, so we are all in the same situation. Sometimes we have been on top, and we make a lot of money — some millions from our recent games in Europe. But the club also costs a lot to run. We've been losing up to £400,000 in recent years, and have had to make some economies. Remember that we as a club also are involved in ice-skating, skiing, bowling, athletics and orienteering. All these sports have a representative on the IFK board. We aim to develop individual members in a positive way, physically, mentally, socially, culturally. Fortunately our methods seem to be working. Many other clubs have the opportunity to copy our success.

SWEDEN.....

Master Magnus

AFTER 13 matches IFK Gothenburg topped the "Allsvenskan", as expected.

According to the experts, IFK have three of the best players in Sweden: Thomas Ravelli is the best goalkeeper, Joachim Bjorklund the best defender and Stefan Rehn the best midfielder.

Rehn was voted the most valuable player of them all in a recent survey.

Besides, the club have found a real joker in the pack in Magnus Erlingmark, signed from Orebro. He is a defender or a defensive midfielder for Sweden, but has turned out as striker for IFK — and is their top scorer in the league with eight goals.

AIK continued to shadow IFK after an important 1-0 home win over Norrkoping.

The winner came from the vastly-underrated Kim Bergstrand (right), second in the scoring charts with 10, one fewer than Trelleborg's promising Mats Lilienberg.

Eight matches have attracted more than 10,000 spectators — and each one involved Helsingborg.

Their clash with Gothenburg drew 17,275 fans to the Olympia stadium. Sadly, the occasion was slightly marred by hooligans, and police had to make 25 arrests.

PENTTI HIETANEN

DENMARK.....

Elstrup exits early

LARS ELSTRUP, one of Denmark's heroes at the European Championship just a year ago, has been forced to retire from football due to a knee injury.

The 30-year-old striker, whose vital goal against France put Denmark into the semi-finals, missed six games of the season as his club OB Odense lost the title race to FC Copenhagen by a point.

Elstrup had nevertheless finished second in the scoring charts with 12 goals, and also contributed to OB's Cup triumph with a key penalty in the final.

OB offered him another year's contract in the hope that the problem would clear up. But Elstrup, the quiet man who began life as a bank clerk in a small village, announced his retirement.

After consultations with the specialist who had performed a series of operations on the battered knee, Elstrup revealed he did not want to risk long-term damage.

He said: "I played last season when I didn't feel the knee was right. And that is not fair to myself or the club and national team. I don't think I could honorably go on and give my best in training and matches."

And with that he was gone — a frustrating as well as agonising end to a fine career which also featured spells with Feyenoord in Holland and Luton Town in England's top flight.

Elstrup's talent was always in demand, but he snubbed enticing offers from Nottingham Forest and Everton to remain in England, because of homesickness. The bank clerk weighed up the options carefully and went home to a year of success he could never have counted on.

He said: "Of course I'm sad that I won't play any more, but nobody can take away winning the European Championship last year. And I was also the first player to score for Denmark in the new Parken.

"Now I will look around for an interesting job, and I hope I can give something back to football."

Fate has always been a fickle friend to footballers. A number of Denmark's fairytale winners of a year ago have suffered setbacks apart from Elstrup.

Striker Flemming Povlsen broke a leg playing for Borussia Dortmund while Bent Christensen missed most of Schalke's season through injury and has joined Olympiakos in Greece.

Henrik Larsen could not get a club game because of contractual problems with Pisa, and had an ill-fated few months in the reserves with Aston Villa. Torben Piechnik lost form so dramatically that he conceded his place both in the national side and Liverpool's first team. And the two players in Italy, Brian Laudrup with Fiorentina and John Sivebaek with Pescara were both relegated.

At least Laudrup had the recent boost of a one-year loan move to Italian champions Milan.

Well, it will be a boost if he can be one of the three foreigners regularly included in the side next season.

JIM HOLDEN

SPOTLIGHT ON **KIM VILFORT**

After Europe, America

KIM VILFORT, who scored the goal which clinched Denmark's victory over Germany in last year's European Championship, believes that Denmark can qualify for US '94 by leapfrogging Spain or the Republic of Ireland to finish in the top two of their group.

"It is in our own hands but we can get a good result in what I feel will be the decisive game in Spain," he says.

"We must score more goals. Against Albania, we should have added plenty.

"We have a problem with our front line, mainly due to the injuries to Flemming Povlson and Bent Christensen".

Vilfort named Aalborg's Peter Moller and Martin Johansen of new champions FC Copenhagen as promising new faces in the national team who could make an impact in the future, but both are young and will need time to settle at international level.

The step from domestic to international football was a big one for Vilfort, a teacher by profession.

He was capped initially in October 1983, in an Olympic qualifier against Poland, but took five years, and a change of manager, before he became a regular international, coming in at the end of Sepp Piontek's exciting reign in the ill-fated 1988 European Championship.

In between Vilfort spent a year in France, playing for Olympique Lille.

"I enjoyed France, but unfortunately, I did not score enough goals, so I had to return to Denmark.

"I'm 30 now, so I do not think that I will move out of Denmark again."

Vilfort is one of the older heads in a young Brondby side who, although found wanting in the Danish Superliga this season, have the potential to regain their masterful status of the mid-1980s.

"We have some very good young players who may go on to make a name for themselves in the next couple of years.

"Jes Hogh could succeed Lars Olsen in the national team as sweeper. He has been very consistent this season.

"Jesper Kristensen also could make a good contribution in the future.

"Danish football is on an understandable high at the moment, with general interest on the increase, and a healthy rise in attendances.

"The Superliga is of a similar standard to Austrian or Swiss football.

"Teams such as Brondby, OB and FCK can hold their own against some of the best sides in Europe."

Vilfort looks forward to UEFA Cup football in the new season with Brondby — and to the World Cup.

"Victory in Sweden was a great team effort.

"We knew that there were potentially better teams in the finals, but we had this feeling that we could beat Holland, and Germany.

"I hope that we can repeat that sort of team spirit in qualifying for the United States."

NEIL JENSEN

PRO-FILE

KIM VILFORT
BRONDBY AND DENMARK

Born: November 15, 1962

Previous Clubs: Skovlunde IF, Frem, Olympique Lille.

International Caps: 57 (8 goals)

FINLAND.....

TPV on top

TPV TAMPERE, newly promoted, are the surprise leaders of the Finnish league.

They are coached by Pertti Lundell, and rely on tight defence and quick counter-attacks, often engineered by two excellent Russians, Oleg Popovich and Oleg Ivanov.

In a recent top of the table clash TPV showed gritty spirit by drawing in the final 10 minutes against FC Jazz, after being 2-0 down.

Antti Sumiala of Jazz tops the scoring tables with 10 goals.

Sumiala has been in Belgium with Anderlecht and in Denmark with Ikast, but he is still only 19.

Rovaniemi reached the Cup Final after beating Haka 2-1 in one semi-final. They meet HJK Helsinki, who defeated Kuusysi Lahti 2-0.

PENTTI HIETANEN

REPUBLIC of IRELAND.....

One wanted for Jack's ton

AFTER setting a Republic record of three consecutive away wins at the end of last season, Jack Charlton is hoping that his team will take another step on the road to the 1994 World Cup by beating Lithuania at Lansdowne Road on September 8.

The Irish won 1-0 in Vilnius last June, and one more goal will make it 100 in 71 games since Charlton took over in 1986.

He has to plan without defender Paul McGrath, who received his second yellow card against Lithuania.

Niall Quinn, Kevin Moran, Eddie McGoldrick, Roy Keane, Steve Staunton and Ray Houghton are all on one yellow card.

The FAI continue to get a bargain in Charlton and his assistant, Maurice Setters. The pair's salaries and expenses came to only £145,000 for the last financial year.

But the FAI are not wasting the money that is currently rolling in: £4 out of every £5 go in grants to League and junior clubs, and selling ten-year tickets for home games at Lansdowne Road will bring in more money.

Next season the main domestic competition will be known as the Bord Gais National League.

There are two significant changes in the rules following the double play-off last season; three points for a win and goal difference if two or more clubs finish level on points. Former FAI general secretary Dr Tony O'Neill is the new president.

Daniel Richardson has returned to Ireland after an absence of 21 years.

The former Gillingham manager, who played for Shamrock Rovers until 1972, is the new manager of Cork City.

He replaces Noel O'Mahony, who resigned after Cork won the Premier Division last season. Former Aston Villa and Leeds defender Brendan Ormsby is the new player-manager of Waterford United.

SEAN CREEDON

PORTUGAL

Benfica endure a new Hot Summer

IN 1975 the Portuguese people went through what became known as the Hot Summer — an atmosphere of unreality, with Civil War in the air.

This year, a new Hot Summer was provided by a not-so-unreal war between the football clubs, especially between Benfica and Sporting Lisbon.

And this time the Lisbon Eagles were very much at the receiving end.

Financial collapse arrived soon after victory in the Portuguese Cup.

Benfica run a large machine with hundreds of employees and many professional players, in handball, volleyball, athletics, basketball, and other sports, with football being the main source of funds to cover everything.

People ask the impossible: champions all the time and in everything. No money in this world would be enough to ensure that.

And when the footballers' wages were in arrears, Sporting Lisbon president Sousa Cintra moved on to the attack with critical comments.

With wages unpaid, cheques bouncing all over the place, players moving and contracts cancelled, the atmosphere has been poisonous in recent weeks.

Sporting Lisbon manager Bobby Robson, always a gentleman, told me a few days ago: "Benfica are such a club that they will come out of all this even stronger."

At the moment the "socios" and many friends of the Eagles all over Portugal are responding to an appeal for funds.

Soon the coffers at the Stadium of Light will be filled again, they hope.

In this atmosphere, Sporting Lisbon bake under the sun. Everybody there thinks that the Championship may at long last be in their club's pocket.

But football does not work like that.

Pacheco and Paulo Sousa will not provide an answer to problems which Robson found difficult to conquer though there is no doubt that his options are now much better.

The champions, Porto, also have financial problems. There are no new faces, and the club even tried to sell Emil Kostadinov, the Bulgarian to whom so much is owed.

Despite all the big gates, the title, the new hopes that the coming season has generated, Porto are strapped for cash.

The truth is that one cannot see any football in all this — only business, horse trading, bankruptcies looming. And the supporters, the soul of everything in football, have to suffer.

Who knows if a new soccer civilisation is to emerge from all this — doing away with bad habits?

But, to begin with, Benfica will be playing at Porto on the first day of the new championship.

It will be hell out there.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

Kostadinov . . . owed a great deal.

Paulo Sousa . . . moved from Benfica to Sporting.

ISRAEL

Mizrahi on the move

WITH the national squad resting until World Cup qualifying matches resume in October, attention has settled on the comings and goings.

Last season's top scorer, Alon Mizrahi, led the way with a £120,000 move from Bnei Yehuda to Maccabi Haifa, and has been followed by two protracted deals.

First, Hapoel Haifa and national squad midfielder Tal Banin finally signed for Cannes after an on-off deal which spanned two months.

Banin will be hoping to emulate Motty Spiegler, Giora Spiegel and Vicky Peratz, who distinguished themselves in the French First Division.

Next came the Dynasty-type saga around Bnei Yehuda midfielder Haim Revivo, who surprised local fans by signing for Hapoel Tel Aviv.

Revivo was set to have trials with Lecce after negotiations to renew his contract with Bnei Yehuda had broken down, but Hapoel Tel Aviv upped the stakes to £120,000 and so secured one of the more unlikely buys of the summer.

Bnei Yehuda are set to replace Revivo with Ukranian midfielder Olag Smolninov, who has played with German Second Division club Nordhauzen, while champions Betar Jerusalem are trying to lure Belgian-based striker Shalom Tikva back to Israel.

Betar face Moldovian champions Zimbru Kishniev in the preliminary round of the Champions' Cup, with Lech Poznan waiting for the winners in the first round proper.

Cup-winners Maccabi Haifa play Torpedo Moscow in the first round of the Cup-winners' Cup if they overcome Dudelange of Luxemburg in the preliminary round.

MARK RIVLIN

MALTA

Ghedin is new chief

PIPPO PSAILA stepped down as Malta's national team manager two days after the team lost 4-0 in Portugal, and six months before his contract ran out.

Under his care, the national team played 18 matches, winning five (including the first World Cup win, in Estonia), drawing four and losing nine.

"These results had a 39 per cent success rating," commented an emotional Psaila in his farewell speed to the media.

The outspoken Psaila's relations with the FA deteriorated to the point of no return. His resignation was based upon the fact that he was not consulted regarding the technical development youths.

Italian Pietro Ghedin, Under-21 national coach during Psaila's term in office, has taken over as national manager. Ghedin, 40, played for Venezia, Fiorentina and Lazio, and is Malta's third foreign coach, after the Bulgarian Gentscho Dobrev and the German Horst Heese.

He is assisted by former Malta international keeper Robert Gatt, while Psaila's former assistant, Bulgarian Georgi Deanov, has moved on to the Under-21 side.

Hamrun and Malta midfielder Joe Brincat was voted Player of the Year by a single vote ahead of his former Hamrun colleague Ray Vella, now with St Andrew's.

Premier League clubs are pressing hard for the concession of a third foreigner on the field for the coming season. They also propose that players involved in the daily professional training routine with the national team be allowed to train with their clubs in the afternoon.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

GREECE

Government asked to help Olympiakos

PRIME MINISTER Constantine Mitsotakis has been asked to help bail out the country's most popular club, Olympiakos of Piraeus.

The club president, Socrates Kokkalis, has received assurances that the matter will be settled and the team will get through the crisis.

Past scandals involving various administrations at Olympiakos have left the club owing millions of pounds in back taxes.

"I don't believe we'll be disbanded by any government," said Kokkalis.

"But if our proposals are not agreed then the current board of directors will resign."

Olympiakos coach Ljubomir Petrovic said he had no idea what would happen if the board quit.

"The problem is gigantic and has a negative effect on me and the players," he added. "But I believe the administration is doing its best."

Despite the difficulties, the club spent more than any other First Division outfit during the close season, when total deals amounted to about £5.8 million.

The top choice for Olympiakos was Denmark's Bent Kristensen, 26, from German club Schalke. "I believe he is capable of scoring 20 goals in a season," said Petrovic.

Panathinaikos have added OFI Crete and Greek international Nikos Noblias to the line-up, and the return of veteran Dimitris Saravakos, plus Argentine Juan Jose Borelli, should spell trouble for their opponents.

The captain, Stratos Apostolakis, said: "Our objective is the League and Cup double, and to do well in the Cup-winners' Cup."

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

TURKEY.....

Osiek in charge at Fenerbahce

FENERBAHCE began their attempt to get back to the top of Turkish football by recruiting a German, Holger Osiek, as their new coach.

Osiek, formerly with Bochum and assistant to the one-time German national coach, Franz Beckenbauer, has signed a two-year contract worth a total of £342,000 plus a 20 per cent bonus if Fenerbahce win the championship in that time.

Osiek had intended to sign a Nigerian midfielder, Uche Okechukwu, from Danish club Brondby, but pulled out of the deal when the asking price increased.

There was better news for Fenerbahce when striker Tanju Colak's bail period was exteneded, making him available for the new season.

Tanju has appealed against a nine-year jail sentence imposed for illegally importing a Mercedes car. The jail term has been halved because he was "informative" during the initial hearing, and his renewed contract is now worth £235,000 plus a car . . . a BMW.

Sepp Piontek, now manager of Bursaspor after a long spell in charge of the Turkish national team, has signed two Scandinavians in an effort to double the club's list of honours.

Bursa's victory in the Turkish Cup in 1986 is their only trophy, and realistically they have little hope of breaking through . . . but Piontek has never lacked confidence:

Frank Pingel and Goran Sorloth will bring much-needed experience to the team.

Pingel, formerly of Munich 1860, Newcastle and Brondby, has signed a two-year deal worth £230,000.

Sorloth, who is costing £300,000 spent most of his career with Rosenborg Trondheim, won 43 caps for Norway, and was Player of the Year in 1990.

Besiktas have gone further afield for newcomers, signing a Peruvian and an Argentine. Francesco Manessero, a midfielder from Defensor Lima, has won 15 caps for Peru, and striker Oswaldo Nartolio has been playing recently for Orlando Pirates in South Africa.

Manessero's two-year deal is costing Besiktas £418,000, Nartollo's £356,000.

Trabzonspor have signed Ukranian striker Sergei Gusev, who scored 17 times for Chernomorets Odessa last season, and has won six caps. The transfer fee was £137,000, and Gusev will be paid £4,800 a month for two years.

Galatasaray have not signed any newcomers. News of the investigation into their remarkable championship victory — an 8-0 away win in their final match, as reported last month — is still awaited.

HASAN CEMALI

SLOVAKIA.....

Dubovsky off to Madrid

THE first season of independent Slovak football opened with a major blow for the domestic game. Peter Dubovsky (left), Slovan Bratislava's 21-year-old top scorer, was sold to Spain's Real Madrid for £2.5million.

Dubovsky's departure in itself was not a surprise, although Slovan officials had considered hanging on to him for one more year. Madrid's success in clinching the deal was a surprise, however, because Dubovsky had been targeted by a number of German, Dutch and Italian clubs — chief among them Ajax Amsterdam.

A key factor for Madrid was the impression Dubovsky had made on their spies when the clubs met in Europe two seasons ago. The clubs, it emerged, had remained in contact on the subject of his possible transfer ever since.

The transfer was good news, of course, for Aston Villa who face Slovan in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

EUROPEAN CLUB DRAWS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Preliminary Round

HJK Helsinki (Fin) v Norma Tallinn (Est)
Ekranas (Lit) v Floriana (Mal)
B68 (Fl) v Croatia Zagreb (Cro)
Skonto Riga (Lat) v Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln)
Cwmbran Town (Wal) v Cork City (Irel)
Tbilisi Dynamo (Geo) v Linfield (Nl)
Avenir Beggen (Lux) v Rosenborg (Nor)
Partizani Tirana (Alb) v IA Akranes (Ice)
Omonia Nicosia (Cyp) v FC Aarau (Swi)
Zimbru Kishinev (Mol) v Beitar Jerusalem (Isr)
1st Leg — Aug 18
2nd Leg — Sep 1

First Round

Werder Bremen (Ger) v Minsk Dynamo (Bye)
Galatasaray (Tur) v Cwmbran T or Cork City
Kiev Dynamo (Ukr) v Barcelona (Spa)
Marseille (Fra) v AEK Athens (Gre)
Honved-Kispest (Hun) v Manchester Utd (Eng)
Rangers (Sco) v Levski Sofia (Bul)
AIK Stockholm (Swe) v Sparta Prague (Cze)
Tbilisi or Linfield v FC Copenhagen (Den)
Lech Poznan (Pol) v Zimbru or Beitar
HJK or Norma v Anderlecht (Bel)
Partizani or IA Akranes v Feyenoord (Hol)
Steaua Bucharest (Rom) v B68 or Zagreb
Avenir Beggen or Rosenborg v Austria Vienna
FC Porto (Por) v Ekranas or Floriana
Riga or Ljubljana v Moscow Spartak (Rus)
Omonia Nicosia or Aarau v Milan (Ita)
1st Leg — Sep 15
2nd Leg — Sep 29

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Qualifying Round

Karpaty Lvov (Ukr) v Shelbourne (Ire)
Sliema Wanderers (Mal) v Degerfors IF (Swe)
Bangor (Nl) v APOEL Nicosia (Cyp)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) v Dudelange (Lux)
FC Valur (Ice) v MyPa (Fin)
FC Balzers (Lie) v Albpetrol (Alb)
Nikol Tallinn (Est) v Lillestrom (Nor)
FC Kosice (Slk) v Zalgiris Vilnius (Lit)
FC Lugano (Swi) v Neman Grodno (Bye)
RAF Jelgava (Lat) v HB Thorshavn (Fl)
Odense BK (Den) v Publikum (Sln)
1st Leg — Aug 18
2nd Leg — Sep 1

First Round

CSKA Sofia (Bul) v Albpetrol or Balzers
Real Madrid (Spa) v Lugano or Grodno
Moscow Torpedo (Rus) v Dudelange or Haifa
Kosice or Vilnius v Besiktas (Tur)
Panathinaikos (Gre) v Lvov or Shelbourne
Odense or Publikum v Arsenal (Eng)
Univ. Craiova (Rom) v RAF or HB
Innsbruck (Aut) v Ferencvaros (Hun)
Standard Liege (Bel) v Cardiff City (Wal)
APOEL or Bangor v Paris St Germain (Fra)
Hadjuk Split (Cro) v Ajax (Hol)
Nikol or Lillestrom v Torino (Ita)
Benfica (Por) v GKS Katowice (Pol)
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v FC Boby Brno (Cze)
Sliema or Degerfors v Parma (Ita)
FC Valur or MyPa v Aberdeen (Sco)
1st Leg — Sep 15
2nd Leg — Sep 29

UEFA CUP

First Round

Norrkoping (Swe) v Mechelen (Bel)
Nantes (Fra) v Valencia (Spa)
FC Reykjavik (Ice) v MTK Budapest (Hun)
Kuusysi Lahti (Fin) v Waregem (Bel)
Crusaders (Nl) v Servette (Swi)
Brondby (Den) v Dundee United (Sco)
FC Twente (Hol) v Bayern Munich (Ger)
Karlsruhe SC (Ger) v PSV Eindhoven (Hol)
Moscow Dynamo v Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
Bor. Dortmund v Spartak Vladikavkaz (Rus)
Bohemians (Ire) v Bordeaux (Fra)
Young Bouys (Swi) v Celtic (Sco)
Aalborg BK (Den) v La Coruna (Spa)
Norwich City (Eng) v Vitesse Arnhem (Hol)
Hearts (Sco) v Atletico Madrid (Spa)
Slavia Prague (Cze) v OFI Crete (Gre)
US Luxembourg (Lux) v Boavista (Por)
Slovan Bratislava (Slk) v Aston Villa (Eng)
Lazio (Ita) v Lokomotiv Plovdiv (Bul)
Osters IF (Swe) v Kongsvinger (Nor)
Admira Wacker (Aut) v Dnepropetrovsk (Ukr)
Internazionale (Ita) v Rapid Bucharest (Rom)
Botev Plovdiv (Bul) v Olympiakos (Gre)
Vac FC (Hun) v Apollon Limassol (Cyp)
Kocaelispor (Tur) v Sporting Lisbon (Por)
Juventus (Ita) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
Austria Salzburg (Aut) v Dunajska Streda (Slk)
Gloria Bistrita (Rom) v Maribor Branik (Sln)
Tenerife (Spa) v Monaco (Fra)
Antwerp (Bel) v Maritimo (Por)
Trabzonspor (Tur) v Valetta (Mal)
Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) v Cagliari (Ita)
1st Leg — Sep 15
2nd Leg — Sep 29

POLAND.....

Farce takes a sinister turn

THE confused situation involving Poland's soccer authorities and leading clubs descended from farce to something a lot more sinister with a fire at the country's football HQ.

An attempt at arson, caused by a small explosive device, was foiled when a security guard put out the blaze at the Polish Football Association (PZPN) offices in Warsaw.

The front door was burned and telephone lines were put out of action, but there was no other damage and nobody was hurt.

The incident was the latest development in a scandal involving bribery and drug-taking, demotion and expulsion from European competition.

PZPN had made themselves a national joke by allowing the results of two final-day matches to stand, despite finding clubs guilty of rigging the results.

Legia Warsaw, who beat Wisla Krakow 6-0, topped the table on goal difference from LSK Lodz, who defeated Olimpia Poznan 7-1. All four clubs involved were fined millions of Zlotys, but these are small sums when converted to sterling.

There was more severe punishment in the form of three points deducted from next season's total, and the clubs cannot be involved in any transfer dealings for a year.

Legia were then stripped of their title after all, because one of their players had failed a routine dope test at an earlier match. Under regulations, the match in question was awarded to the opposition, Widzew Lodz, so Legia lost the two points they had gained by winning.

This put them down to third, with LKS Lodz first and Lech Poznan second, on goal difference.

PZPN then decided that Lech would go into the Champions' Cup in 1993-94, with GKS Katowice, who had won the domestic Cup, going into the Cup-winners' Cup, and Legia and LKS Lodz entering the UEFA Cup.

Then on the day of the draw for the opening rounds in the three competitions, UEFA decided to bar Legia and LKS because of the match-fixing offences.

JAMES WALKER

ALBANIA.....

Tirana's transfer trail

SEVERAL players have been on the move during the close season in Albania, and several more are likely to go abroad.

FK Tirana have been the most active club, and have made one outstanding capture in Ervin Skela from Flamurtari.

He was in excellent form last season, even at the tender age of 17.

Indrid Fortuzi and Afrim Tole of Dinamo also have gone to Tirana, and so have Genci Lacka and Adrian Abaza of Pogradeci.

The champions, Partizani, have signed Nordick Ruhi from Dinamo and Ylli Cekici from Pogradeci, but are likely to have difficulty in holding on to some of their men.

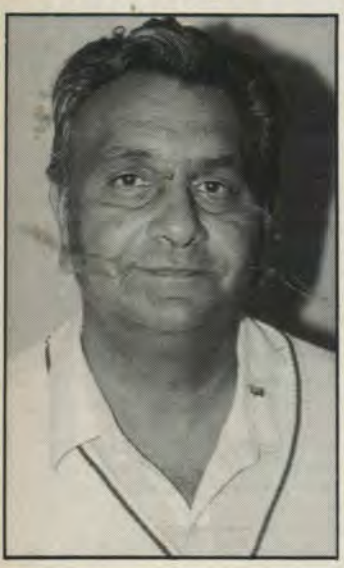
Edmond Dosti, top scorer last season, and defender Adnand Ocelli have been linked with Swedish clubs, and Ilir Shulku, Artan Bano and Ylli Shehy are targets for teams in Greece.

The Football Federation have sought government aid to help struggling clubs in a dire economic situation, and an Italian company, Ariston, are to sponsor FK Tirana in the new season.

GEZIM NUSHI

HUNGARY.....

Verebes back at the top



JOZSEF VEREBES has signed a one-year contract to manage the Hungarian national team, while continuing in charge of his club team, Raba ETO.

Verebes (above), now 52, managed Hungary briefly after the 1986 World Cup embarrassment. He was sacked by Kispest-Honved after eight games last season, before rejoining Raba and taking them up the table to ninth.

They had one the championship twice in the early 1980s, under his guidance.

Imre Gellei, the MTK coach, was among the candidates for the national job at the end-of-season congress of the Hungarian Football Federation, when Dr Mihaly Laczko was re-elected president with 78 per cent of the votes.

The proposals in a wide-ranging paper presented by the executive committee to the congress were generally accepted. Whether the main ideas come to fruition is another matter.

Sandor Berzi, the general secretary, says: "The situation is very bad in Hungarian football and the executive committee thought that we had to make this report. The last one was in 1988-89.

"We have to decide the place of football in Hungary — clear it with the government, political parties, and city and county councils. Do they think that Hungary needs football as the biggest possibility for developing youth?

"The attitude of the Government and political parties to sport in society is bad. Maybe the roots of this bad attitude come from the situation in the former political system in which sport was a political question. But the new government wants to keep far away from sport. I've seen a small change, and this may increase in the next year because of the coming election.

"The public here expect our football to be on the highest level. But all the politicians think about is the national team, and the First Division.

"They don't think about the 100,000-plus players, that this is the best possibility to give health for youth, to reduce the problems in the Hungarian lifestyle: diet, lack of exercise, the consequent lowering of life expectancy.

"It is inconceivable how they can think this way because football is popular, played everywhere, from children to grown men.

"Maybe the problem is that this new Government came from the intelligentsia — lawyers, historians, scientists — and the Parliament, from 350 members, has only three with a sporting connection."

The proposals include:

- Doubling the players in the schools (where 70 per cent of the teachers are women) in the next few years.
- Organising a Schools' Football Association to deal with players up to nine or ten for First Division clubs on the basis that "the best training is the match".
- The coaching of coaches must be completed in a shorter time.
- Improved discipline at all levels of the game.

There are some redeeming features. One is the fact that, in the last couple of years, Hungarian teams, at under-15 and under-18 level, have qualified for the finals of the European tournaments.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

SPOTLIGHT ON FEDOR CHERENKOV

The greatest Spartak star

FEDOR CHERENKOV is the greatest personality of modern Russian soccer, even though he never played in a World Cup or European Championship.

To appreciate his popularity, you need to be in the crowd as veteran Cherenkov prepares to go on as a substitute.

Thousands await his appearance with impatience, chanting his name and calling him "People's Master".

No other player can match his popularity — not even goalkeeper Rinat Dasayev, voted best keeper in the Soviet League on five occasions.

Nikita Simonian, holder of Spartak's scoring record and now Russian FA vice-president, picks Cherenkov in his Best Ever Spartak XI, in a five-man midfield also including Igor Netto, Sergei Salnikov, Uri Gavrilov and Igor Shalimov.

"Everybody connected with the club, players as well as spectators, took the greatest pleasure from Fedor's intellectual style and magical passing," says Simonian.

The present Spartak manager, Oleg Romantsev, played in the same team as Cherenkov for six seasons, and likens his colleague to Platini and Matthaus.

"Defenders had more trouble with Fedor than they did with the other two, because his play was so unpredictable," says Romantsev.

Fedor Cherenkov was born in Moscow on July 25, 1959, son of a Spartak supporter who took the boy to matches from an early age. When he was three, his mother gave him a present, a little rubber football. And his future was decided.

Little Fedor began playing with a team of boys run by FC Kuntsevo, then joined Spartak while still only ten years of age. He gradually worked his way through the ranks and made his senior debut at 18, against Ararat Yerevan.

Despite his boyish looks he played like a man, showing splendid technique, exceptional skill on the ball, and remarkable coolness.

Only 15 months later he made the first of 40 appearances for the national team, against Greece in Athens. But it was a sad day — Greece won 1-0 and so the Soviets failed to qualify for the 1980 European Championship.

Another nine months on, Cherenkov celebrated one of the greatest days of his life. He played magnificently and scored one of the goals as the Soviet Union beat Tele Santana's Brazilian magicians 2-1 before a crowd of 130,000 in Rio's Maracana Stadium.

That was during a spell of nine international victories in ten games, with Cherenkov scoring eight times.

But in 1982 Russian manager Konstantin Beskov — who had been Cherenkov's boss at Spartak — decided to go to the World Cup without him. This controversial decision was a great injustice, says Romantsev, who also was left out of the party.

"Odd years seem better for me than even years," says Cherenkov.

"I was a championship winner with Spartak in 1979, 1987 and 1989, and was chosen Footballer of the Year in 1983 and 1989.

"Perhaps it's just unfortunate for me

RUSSIA.....

Sponsors act against refs

THE second round of the national championship in Russia began under a black cloud — interference by sponsors.

There is no longer government aid for clubs in Russia, and even organisations such as CSKA and Moscow Dynamo, previously funded by the State, now need outside investment.

In their turn, the new financial bosses do not hesitate to use threats of cash withdrawal in order to get their way over team selection, transfers and even officials.

Referees have been assaulted and even threatened with death as those with the money become stronger and stronger.

The League President, Nikolai Tolstykh, has said that: "Football will not bend to the Mafia" — but he might be on the losing side in this particular battle.

VICTOR GUSEV

Dynamo's Aerkatch opposes Benfica's Veloso.

that World Cups come round on even years."

In 1983 Cherenkov enjoyed another great occasion, scoring both goals as Spartak beat Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup. He also did well in the national side, and seemed sure to get to the 1984 European Championship after helping in a 5-0 crushing of Portugal. But a penalty in the return, in Lisbon, slammed the door in Russia's faces.

At the end of the season Cherenkov was voted Player of the Year by a huge margin, but trouble was just round the corner. He became ill with nervous exhaustion, missed half his club's matches, and lost his national place.

Against expectations, Cherenkov fought back to score 13 goals in the 1985 League programme — a personal best — and reclaim a midfield berth in the Soviet squad. His goal against the Republic of Ireland in Moscow helped his country to qualify for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico . . . and again he stayed at home, passed over as a result of new manager Valeri Lobanovski's preference for Kiev players.

He again missed out in the European Championship of 1988, with Lobanovsky deciding that he was not up to it after a gruelling season. This time there was no public outcry, but even so the Russian team might well have done better in the final, which they lost 2-0 to Holland, if he had been present.

Cherenkov hit back the following year, helping Spartak to their 12th League title, winning the Player of the Year award again, taking part in two World Cup qualifiers, and several other matches as Italia '90 drew near.

In one, a 3-1 defeat of the United States, Cherenkov was named man of the match. But even though the Russians qualified, Cherenkov was on his way out of the squad.

His appearance as a late substitute in a 1-0 defeat by the Irish in Dublin in April that year was his last for his country: he was again passed over, and — perhaps unsurprisingly disillusioned — he and his best friend, Sergei Rodionov, signed for a French club, Red Star 93.

Not a good move for Cherenkov, who was ill at ease in a different environment. After only 15 games he returned to Moscow and rejoined Spartak, to wind down his career giving the youngsters a hand.

At the time of writing Cherenkov had appeared in a club record 466 games for Spartak (in the Soviet League, Soviet Cup, European competitions and the new Russian League), scoring 112 goals.

When asked which was his favourite goal, he replied: "Valeri Shmarov's free-kick against Kiev Dynamo in 1989, when we won the championship".

He's modest, as well as being a great player.

VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH

PRO-FILE

FEDOR CHERENKOV

MOSCOW SPARTAK

Born: July 25, 1959 in Moscow.

Previous Clubs: FC Kuntsevo, Red Star 93 (France).

League debut: June 1978, for Spartak v Ararat of Yerevan.

International debut: (for Soviet Union) September 12, 1979 v Greece.

International caps: 40 (16 goals).

HONOURS

Soviet Championship: 1979, 1987, 1989.

Soviet Player of the Year: 1983, 1989.

UNDER-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosts v holders in Tokyo opener

THE fifth Under-17 World Championship begins on August 21 in Tokyo, with a match between the hosts, Japan, and the defending champions, Ghana.

Japan, participating for the first time, and Ghana, winners in 1991 with a 1-0 victory over Spain in the final, are in Group A of the tournament, along with Italy and Mexico, in what promises to be a very close group.

European Under-17 champions Poland are competing at this level for the first time, and are in Group D with China and fellow new-comers Chile and Tunisia.

The RCS also take part for the first time, and are in Group C along with Colombia, Qatar and the United States.

The 16 competing nations have been organised into four groups, with the winners and runners-up progressing to the quarter-finals. Each continent is represented at the event, which culminates on September 9 with the final in Tokyo.

UNDER-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A
Tokyo/Kobe
21.8.93 Japan v Ghana
22.8.93 Italy v Mexico
24.8.93 Ghana v Mexico
24.8.93 Japan v Italy
26.8.93 Ghana v Italy
26.8.93 Japan v Mexico

GROUP B
Nagoya/Gifu
22.8.93 Australia v Argentina
22.8.93 Canada v Nigeria
24.8.93 Australia v Canada
24.8.93 Argentina v Nigeria
26.8.93 Australia v Nigeria
26.8.93 Argentina v Canada

GROUP C
Kyoto
22.8.93 Colombia v Qatar
22.8.93 US v RCS
24.8.93 Colombia v US
24.8.93 Qatar v RCS
26.8.93 Colombia v RCS
26.8.93 Qatar v US

GROUP D
Hiroshima
22.8.93 Chile v China
22.8.93 Tunisia v Poland
24.8.93 Chile v Tunisia
24.8.93 China v Poland
26.8.93 Chile v Poland
26.8.93 China v Tunisia

QUARTER-FINALS
29.8.93 #1 1st Gp A v 2nd Gp B *in Kobe*
29.8.93 #2 1st Gp B v 2nd Gp A *in Gifu*
29.8.93 #3 1st Gp C v 2nd Gp D *in Kyoto*
29.8.93 #4 1st Gp D v 2nd Gp C *in Hiroshima*

SEMI-FINALS
01.9.93 Winner #1v Winner #3 *in Tokyo*
01.9.93 Winner #2 v Winner #4 *in Hiroshima*

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FINAL
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Domestic and European challenges leading to possible World Cup participation face **PAUL GASCOIGNE** and **RYAN GIGGS** as the 1993-94 season gets under way.

The G

GASCOIGNE, 26, of Lazio, is the controversial fulcrum of the England side, a superb player prone to indiscretion on and off the pitch.

GIGGS, the youngest Welsh international ever, still only 19, is the modern Manchester United equivalent of George Best, but better protected against media excesses.

KEIR RADNEDGE puts the case for and against Gascoigne, and **KEN GOLDMAN** achieves a rare interview with Giggs, in this exclusive ***WORLD SOCCER*** double.

GIGGS: Quite a lot done but much more

WS: ***This is a rare opportunity — both at club and international level you have been rather shielded from the media by your managers.***

RG: Not only is that true, but I'm very grateful that it is. I've been kept out of the media's eye, not because I don't want to co-operate but because I want to concentrate solely on football.

The lack of publicity has thankfully paid off.

WS: ***You certainly seem to have picked up a few pieces of hardware over the last couple of seasons.***

RG: It's hard to express how delighted I am. I received the Barclays' Young Eagle Award and the PFA Young Player's Award in the same season, the second of them for the second year in succession and now I've won the Bravo Award, for the best young player in Europe.

There are a lot of young players about, and it's something quite special to be chosen as the winner. Then there's team medals, too — Rumbelows Cup in '92 and the Premier League title earlier this year. And I've just signed a big deal with Reebok to endorse boots and clothing.

WS: ***How do you feel about being part of a club with such a magnificent tradition?***

RG: Manchester United are one of the biggest clubs in the world and you're right to describe their tradition as being magnificent. Thankfully we have been able to add to it.

Having not won the League for 26 years there was a certain amount of pressure put on us, because it gets to you when people say "You haven't won it for so long" or "You'll never win it".

Now we have got rid of that bogey, hopefully we can win more titles.

WS: ***In the previous year did you not let the title slip when you looked virtually certain to win it?***

RG: Definitely. We went off the boil at the last moment in 1991-92, but certainly made sure we did not make the same mistake again.

Indeed the slip the year before made us more determined to win it last season, and the summer in between those two was very unhappy.

It's every player's dream to win the Championship and it's an even better feeling to have won it after the disappointment of the season before and that 26-year wait.

WS: ***The last two or three matches of the title season must have been like a schoolboy's dream.***

RG: They were particularly special for me. There are players who have been at the club for ten years and have not won a title medal, while I have come along and got one in my second season. Hopefully we can go on to even better things this coming season. The

FA Cup, the Champions' Cup, the Championship and the League Cup are all up for grabs.

The FA Cup would give me the complete domestic set and I would be exceedingly lucky to achieve that at such a young age.

WS: *Inevitably people have started to compare you with George Best. Has that caused you any problems?*

RG: Not really, simply because George was a great player and if I become half the player he was then I will be very proud and happy.

There are always going to be comparisons made with young players breaking into the first team, as there was with Lee Sharpe and myself, and I'm sure it will carry on in future with some of our youth team coming through.

But it's a great privilege to be compared and contrasted with such great players of the past.

WS: *You had to wait a long time for your first full appearance in the Welsh senior team.*

RG: The manager, Terry Yorath, shielded me for a while and made me substitute on a couple of occasions. He then put me in for my first full cap, against Belgium at home last season. I was lucky enough to score and I really enjoyed it, so I hope that that will be the start of many more full caps.

WS: *Have you been able to adjust to the pace of international football?*

RG: There is definitely a swifter pace and you come up against more experienced opposition. It is difficult but I'm hopeful that I'll be able to handle it.

Certainly having my clubmate, Mark Hughes, in the Welsh team has helped. When I was a kid Mark was one of my heroes, so to play with him at both club and international level is an even greater feeling.

Ian Rush, Dean Saunders and Neville Southall — playing with players like these can only improve my own play.

WS: *Did you have any idols and dreams when you were a kid?*

RG: Certainly, like most kids I would go to matches and watch players and two I have just mentioned, Hughes and Rush, were my special favourites.

I saw them score all those incredible goals and it was always my dream to play alongside them.

Although I was a bit of a dreamer I did not really expect to be where I am now. It's a wonderful feeling!

PRO-FILE

RYAN GIGGS

MANCHESTER UNITED AND WALES

Born: November 29, 1973 in Cardiff.

Previous club: Manchester City *(as a schoolboy).*

League debut: March 2, 1991 v Everton.

International debut: October 16, 1991 v Germany.

International caps: 8 (1 goal).

HONOURS

FA Premier League: 1992-93.

Rumbelows Cup: 1991.

Bravo Award *(best young player in Europe):* 1993.

PFA Young Player of the Year: 1992, 1993.

Barclays Young Eagle of the Year: 1993.

GASCOIGNE: Jewel in the crown or ill-mannered clown?

PAUL GASCOIGNE is either the most talented English footballer of his generation or the most over-rated.

Everyone has an opinion about the Clown Price of European football.

He charms kids, delights fans and alternately amazes and frustrates managers and coaches who try to fit him into the highly-disciplined tactical straitjackets so beloved of 1990s football.

Gascoigne's unpredictable genius is both his fortune and his failing. The chubby teenager who reawakened the traditional soccer hotbed of Newcastle in the north-east of England became, step by step, the darling of the more sophisticated fans of Tottenham in North London and then the glamorous inspiration of Roman football's dolce vita.

Gazza hit the world football headlines at the 1990 World Cup finals. He provided the last-minute free-kick which David Platt converted against Belgium to earn a place in the quarter-finals. Against West Germany in the semi-final the boyish tears he spilled in a penalty shoot-out defeat enraptured viewers around the world who had never before been caught by football's emotional high drama.

He hugged the headlines. He thrashed home a wonderful free-kick to provide Tottenham with decisive advantage against Arsenal in the first FA Cup semi-final staged at Wembley.

Back there in the final, he committed a recklessly over-zealous tackle which ripped his knee ligaments asunder.

Gascoigne needed a year to recover, to complete the £5.5 million transfer to Lazio of Rome which provided crisis-hit Tottenham with a measure of financial security.

England, having missed his inspiration so grievously at the finals of the European Championship, welcomed him back with open arms.

Perhaps too much was demanded.

Perhaps too much was expected.

Gascoigne was transformed from hero to scapegoat as England's World Cup qualifying bid began to fragment with the draws at home to Holland, away to Poland, the 2-0 defeat in Norway, and a mundane US Cup tournament.

Why? Nobody can agree.

GASCOIGNE:

THE CASE AGAINST

GRAHAM TAYLOR, England manager: "I don't want to see him throw everything away.

"If anyone has supported Paul Gascoigne over the last six months it's me. But, obviously, the Gascoigne who performed so well for 90 minutes when he returned from his operation against Norway last October is not the same Gascoigne we saw this spring.

"What's the difference? You can see it for yourself. It can't be hidden. He has a weight problem. It is a matter of some concern and Paul has to take responsibility for it.

"Our footballers must realise they have to look after themselves and should not fall into the old habit of thinking Saturday night is for sinking pints.

"The question of Paul's fitness level is not a matter of training because he works very hard. It is how you feed and, let's say, how you refuel yourself between training. He has known my views for some considerable time. Now it's up to him to do something about it."

LINFORD CHRISTIE, Britain's athletics captain and Olympic 100 metres champion: "Even our shot-putters are fitter than Gascoigne."

Choker . . . Gascoigne after England's World Cup defeat by Norway in Oslo (above).

Joker . . . Gascoigne shares a comical moment with Lazio coach Dino Zoff (below).

THE CASE FOR

DINO ZOFF, Lazio coach: **"Graham Taylor is out of touch with reality if he expected Gascoigne to come back as England's inspiration.**

"We couldn't have asked more from the player in his first year after so serious an injury.

"I was fully prepared for the highs and lows in his performances, which was why I was careful not to go over the top in praising or criticising him."

CLAUDIO BAROLINI, Lazio club doctor: "Nobody in Rome considers Gascoigne seriously overweight or having a drink problem. But beer is intrinsic to his diet.

"We accept that he came to us from a different culture. There was no point in changing his habits.

"The body accustoms itself to drawing from certain foods, and beer has been part of his elementary habit. In moderation, it is certainly OK and, taking his injury into account, he's recovered very well.

"I'm not aware that he has a weight problem, nor that he has abused his drinking. He has a specific diet programme, as do all our players."

JACK CHARLTON, **Republic of Ireland's manager and the young Gascoigne's boss at Newcastle: "People like Graham Taylor should be protecting Gazza — they just don't seem to realise what a treasure they have.**

"They should be looking to make excuses for the boy, not attack him in public all the time. The truth is, he's just not fit yet. It doesn't matter how quickly he thinks on the field and how quickly his brain sends a message to his feet, the problem is still his knee. He's lost half a yard of pace.

"But Gazza's the luckiest man in the world to be playing. When you investigate the history of his injury you find that very few come back. It finished Brian Clough and the game is littered with others forced out with this trouble.

"I had the same injury and it took me a year and a half to recover — but I never really got over it.

"So it's always on Gascoigne's mind and it's affecting just about everything he does.

"As for his weight, certain players have a layer of fat on them all the time, and Gazza is one. He always had weight problems when he was a kid while I was manager at Newcastle. He likes his Mars bars, his sweets, butties and junk food, but if he took a lot of that weight off he's lost something.

"He could train until he was red in the face and he'd still carry a few excess pounds.

"But he loves his football, he enjoys training, he's a smashing lad and a wonderful player."

GASCOIGNE'S VERDICT:

"I haven't been as fit as I would want to be. I don't know why. I train very hard and I eat what the rest of the lads eat.

"When I went to Lazio the doctor saw me and said I should drink wine, he said that I would like it. But after he saw me again he told me: 'You'd best go back on the beer.' And Dino Zoff has told me that when I score I should allow myself a beer to celebrate! It's double or quits.

"I was mad with myself at the way I played against Poland and Norway. The team didn't play well, but I couldn't trap a bag of cement.

"I set myself high standards and I know I've dropped below them. But that happens to a lot of players who have had to work so hard to come back from an injury like I did. On top of that I have experienced a very tough season in Italy.

"Honestly, I feel next season I will be better. I can contribute a lot to the team. I can turn the game in a couple of minutes. Even if I get 10 seconds to do something special which will create a goal, I feel I can do it. Next season."

CONCLUSION:

If he does not, then England will be missing from the World Cup finals!

PRO-FILE

PAUL GASCOIGNE

LAZIO AND ENGLAND

Born: Gateshead, May 27, 1967.

Height: 5ft 10in.

Weight: 11st 7lb.

Previous clubs: Newcastle United (1984-88), Tottenham Hotspur (1988-92).

International debut: 1988-89 v Denmark.

International caps: 27 (5 goals).

HONOURS

FA Cup: 1991 *(with Tottenham).*

Hoodoo seems set for another season

ONCE AGAIN Northern Ireland's three European representatives will try to break a nine-year hoodoo.

The last time a team from the province won a European tie was in 1984, when Linfield defeated Shamrock Rovers in the Champions' Cup on away goals.

Linfield are back in Europe for the first time in four years, and they are allowed to play their home Champions' Cup tie at Windsor Park for the first time in six years, following a ban imposed after spectator disturbances in 1987.

The Blues were hoping to celebrate with an attractive opponent, but do not relish a long trip to Georgia to take on Dinamo Tbilisi. They cannot have much hope of progressing.

Cup-winners Bangor face Apoel of Cyprus in the preliminary round and, like Linfield, will have only one competitive match under their belt before they play their first leg.

Servette of Geneva, who meet Crusaders in the first round of the UEFA Cup, might carry too much class for the part-timers.

Glentoran's new management duo, Robert Strain and Billy Caskey, made their first major signing when Ballymena's 25-year-old forward Neil Candlish joined the Oval squad. The club are rumoured to be on the verge of more signings, but Derry City full-back Paul Mooney slipped through their net.

After two years in the League of Ireland, highly-rated Mooney was looking for a club closer to his Belfast home, and chose to sign for Ards.

Coleraine manager Billy Sinclair is looking to his native Scotland to restore the club's pride, and has added 22-year-old St Mirren forward Gary McVie to the six Scots already there.

Sinclair, never one to mince his words, said: "I want to give the fans an attractive and successful team to watch.

"Quite frankly, I could not blame supporters for not coming to see us last season — we played rubbish!"

ROY KITSON

Champions again . . . but can Linfield make progress in Europe?

CWMBRAN FACE MASS CHALLENGE

THE controversy surrounding the instigation of the new Konica League of Wales gradually disappeared as last season progressed, and with the admittance of Welsh Champions Cwmbran Town into the Champions' Cup, all doubt should now vanish.

Cwmbran should once more be a force, but the challenge for their crown will be intensified, with much activity in rival camps.

Runners-up Inter Cardiff have suffered heavily from the loss of sponsors Aspro Holidays, but remain confident that negotiations with a new sponsor will prove successful.

Manager Lyn Jones has re-signed nearly all of last term's squad, and is looking for new signings.

Haverfordwest County have managed to persuade team boss Ray Davies to stay and seven of last season's squad have re-signed, but the search for a centre-back continues.

There has been a change at Connah's Quay Nomads, with Nev Powell, formerly of Bangor City, taking over as player-manager from Ray Jones, but local rivals Flint Town United continue with Les Davies at the helm.

He has signed Chris Davies from Mold Alexandra, Dave Edwards from Holywell Town and Dewi Parry from Nomads.

Conwy United manager Mark Jones has added Wayne Lavender from Connah's Quay Nomads, Dave Norman from Rhyl and Peter Boomer from Mold Alexandra to last season's crew.

Bangor City, under Paul Rowlands, have continued last season's rebuilding with the signings of Dave Barnett (ex-Caernarfon Town), Frank Mottram from Welshpool, Harry Wiggins from Barrow and Robert Cross from Rhyl.

Three players signed from Hereford United — Keith Holmans, Alan Savoury and Paul Mallender — should add valuable experience to a young Newtown squad.

A solid administration team will assist manager Brian Coyne and those on the field to improve on last season's performance.

One of the clubs looking strongly into the future, CPD Porthmadog, plan to involve 350 businesses within a 30 kilometre radius to help create a secure financial footing for the club's aim to get into Europe within the next three seasons.

Manager Meilir Owen has strengthened his squad by signing Mike Foster from Tranmere and hopes team captain Aled Owen will return fully fit after last season's horrific leg injury.

Cardiff City, promoted to the Second Division in England hit the headlines when they were handed over by owner Rick Wright to their junior section!

An unpaid board of directors selected by Wright will run the club for the Junior Bluebirds, who will each receive share certificates as owners of the club.

They are very optimistic at gaining immediate promotion to the First Division, but Wrexham — co-promotees last term — hope to be challenging them again.

Both clubs join Swansea City in this division and the prospect of so many derby matches will be a financial bonus, clouded by the fear of spectator clashes causing heavy police costs.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

All set for the States

CLUB FOOTBALL will take second place to World Cup fever this month, when Wales take on Czech-oslovakia in the home straight of the qualifying competition.

The electrifying atmosphere of Cardiff Arms Park could tip the balance in Cymru's favour as they then take on Cyprus and Romania to complete their programme.

Confidence remains high that the team will get to the US next year, with the strongest squad for some years, despite previous late failures.

The importance of qualification is not simply the getting there; the financial rewards are huge in rela-tion to the FAW purse and reaching the finals will secure the future of domestic football, and the League of Wales, into the next century.

Jersey are the islands' cream

JERSEY beat the Isle of Man 5-1 to win the Island Games tournament staged on the Isle of Wight.

The competition was played in two groups of four, at various venues, with the winners going into the final.

Adam Greig was the outstanding individual, scoring nine of Jersey's 13 goals.

The other teams in the competition were Greenland, Ynys Mon (Wales), Gibraltar — who will host the 1994 event — Aland (Finland), and Shetland.

Group A:
Gibraltar 1 Jersey 2; Ynys Mon 1 Greenland 0; Jersey 4 Greenland 2; Ynys Mon 1 Gibraltar 0; Greenland 5 Gibraltar 0; Jersey 2 Ynys Mon 2.

Group B:
Isle of Wight 1 Isle of Man 0; Aland 3 Shetland 1; Isle of Man 2 Aland 0; Isle of Wight 2 Shetland 0; Shetland 1 Isle of Man 5; Isle of Wight 0 Aland 2.

Play-offs
3rd/4th: ..... Greenland 1 Aland 2.
5th/6th: ..... Isle of Wight 1 Ynys Mon 1.
7th/8th: ..... Shetland 1 Gibraltar 0.
Final: ..... Jersey 5 Isle of Man 1.

The kids are all right

ENGLAND'S Under-18s showed the senior side how to do things with style, by winning the UEFA Under-18 Championship for the ninth time.

Hosts England were by far the best of the eight teams in the tournament and led from the front, literally, with their strikers in outstanding form.

The opening match in Group 2, against France, was deadlocked at 0-0 with just 18 minutes left when England's manager, Ted Powell, made an inspired substitution. QPR's Kevin Gallen and Liverpool's Robbie Fowler went on, and both scored to secure a 2-0 victory.

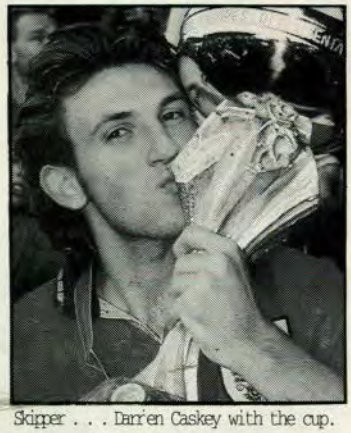
Both players retained their places for the next match, against Holland, and both scored again in a 4-1 victory. Julian Joachim, the striker who is already a regular for First Division Leicester City, had an outstanding match and scored England's other goals.

The final group match against Spain proved an even easier victory, because Spain had Carlos Sierra and Javier Moreno dismissed in the second half. Leeds United striker Mark Tinkler opened the scoring for England just before half-time, and despite an equaliser from Sierra after 69 minutes, England went on to a crushing 5-1 victory with Fowler scoring a hat-trick in 17 minutes.

That victory secured England's place at the top of the group and a place in the final, with Spain going through to the third-place play-off.

In Group 1, defending champions Turkey began nervously with a 1-1 draw against the disappointing Hungarians, but recovered to beat Romania 3-0 with goals by Temel Altuntas, Oktay Derelioglu and Hasan Ozer.

That left Serpil Hamdi's side needing to avoid defeat in their final game with Portugal to reach the final. They were never seriously threatened by the Portuguese, and goals by Mustafa Kocabey and Derelioglu ensured a 2-0 victory.



Skipper . . . Darren Caskey with the cup.

In the all-Iberian third place play-off at Nottingham Forest's City Ground, a crowd of 10,814 saw Spain beat Portugal 2-1 with first-half goals by Jose Galvez and Daniel Garcia.

And so to the Final.

England, after their earlier goal-scoring feats, were expected to defeat Turkey with some ease, but that was a naive view. Turkey clearly thought they were in with a chance, a belief echoed by coach Hamdi, who said: "In all my team talks, out of every 100 words I say, 99 are about my own team."

The result was indeed close, but England did eventually win 1-0, thanks to a penalty by Tottenham's promising midfielder Darren Caskey after 77 minutes. A crowd of 23,381 turned out at the City Ground to cheer the teams on, a fitting end to a week of wonderfully entertaining football.

The 14 matches produced 39 goals, with England's Fowler the leading scorer with five. Indeed Fowler's record at this level is remarkable . . . nine goals in only five matches.

Curiously, the tournament produced an unusually high number of bookings, 53, and four dismissals, Jose Silva of Portugal and Popa Catalin of Romania joining Spain's Sierra and Moreno in the ranks of the early bathers.

Inevitably this success at Under-18 level has again focussed attention on the senior side's recent failings. The theory being that if England can win conclusively at this level, then why can't they do it at senior level?

The answer to that, sadly, may lie with the structuring of junior football in England. At present, there is no Under-19 championship and, unless the FA organise some matches for them, then this talented bunch of kids will break up as European Champions. Their next chance to shine would come at the World Youth Under-20 Championship, but, by then, many will have been integrated into their clubs' first-team squads and might not be available for selection.

After such a welcome success, that would be a great shame.

JOHN KELLY

Swinger . . . Julian Joachim lets fly against France.

UEFA UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1

PORTUGAL ..... 0 — **ROMANIA** 0
Att: 1,408
18.07.93 — at Lincoln City

HUNGARY ..... 1 — **TURKEY** 1
Toth 75 — Kocabey 7
Att: 1,782
18.07.93 — at Sheffield Wednesday

PORTUGAL ..... 2 — **HUNGARY** 0
Joao Peixe 44, Nuno Luis 89
Att: 1,963
20.07.93 — at Lincoln City

ROMANIA ..... 0 — **TURKEY** 3
Altuntas 32, Derelioglu 34, Ozer 79
Att: 1,418
20.07.93 — at Nottingham Forest

TURKEY ..... 2 — **PORTUGAL** 0
Kocabey 9, Derelioglu 87
Att: 1,373
22.07.93 — at Notts County

ROMANIA ..... 0 — **HUNGARY** 1
Toth 57
Att: 1,026
22.07.93 — at Derby County

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TURKEY	3	2	1	0	6	1	5
Portugal	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Hungary	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Romania	3	0	1	2	0	4	1

GROUP 2

HOLLAND ..... 2 — **SPAIN** 3
Witzenhausen 9, Klulvart 80 — G. Garcia 4, Palacios 62, Van der Haar 86 (og)
Att: 1,668
18.07.93 — at Walsall

ENGLAND ..... 2 — **FRANCE** 0
Gallen 83, Fowler 86
Att: 6,867
18.07.93 — at Stoke City

ENGLAND ..... 4 — **HOLLAND** 1
Fowler 11, Joachim 35, 71, Gallen 42 — Witzenhausen 46
Att: 7,561
20.07.93 — at Walsall

SPAIN ..... 4 — **FRANCE** 1
Santos 5, D. Garcia 9, M. Vales 58, 77 — Bedrossian 85
Att: 900
20.07.93 — Crewe Alexandra

ENGLAND ..... 5 — **SPAIN** 1
Tinkler 43, Fowler 71, 81, 87, Forrester 90 — Sierra 69
Att: 8,507
22.07.93 — at Walsall

FRANCE ..... 1 — **HOLLAND** 1
Sibierski 48 — Van Bronckhorst 14
Att: 1,097
22.07.93 — at Stoke City

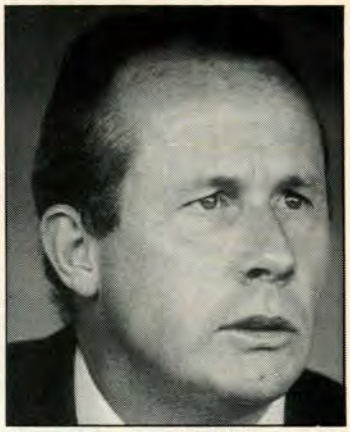
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	3	3	0	0	11	1	6
Spain	3	2	0	1	8	8	4
Holland	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
France	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

PORTUGAL ..... 1 — **SPAIN** 2
Nuno Luis 40 — Galvez 11, D. Garcia 44
Att: 10,814
25.07.93 — at Nottingham Forest

FINAL

ENGLAND ..... 1 — **TURKEY** 0
Caskey 77
Att: 23,381
25.07.93 — at Nottingham Forest



Still number one . . . Liam Brady.

The Liam and Joe show

A new double act at Parkhead

New number two . . . Joe Jordan.

THAT old saying "two heads are better than one" is something Celtic are about to put to the test.

For the former Champions' Cup-winners, struggling to emerge from the giant shadow cast by Rangers, have come up with a double bill, TWO principal characters taking centre stage.

Joe Jordan's arrival to link with manager Liam Brady took Scottish football by surprise. All the smart money had gone on Jordan — sacked as Hearts boss near the end of last season — returning to England, where he had managed Bristol City.

Instead, he has succumbed to the lure of Celtic, the club he supported as a boy, to become assistant manager, on a £100,000 salary.

For many, it was puzzling that a man who was used to being in charge — quite forcefully at times — should suddenly be happy with the No. 2 role. Especially, when the No. 1 has less managerial experience!

But former Leeds, Manchester United and Milan target man Jordan decided the challenge of trying to restore Celtic to the top of Scottish football was greater than being his own man at a lesser club elsewhere.

For Brady, the recruitment of the man he knows from their playing days in Italy is probably the last throw of the dice in his bid to bring Celtic success.

Brady, a novice when named manager two years ago, has failed to win a single trophy and his side have finished no better than third.

It's now four years since Celtic's last hour of glory, the 1989 Scottish Cup triumph, and after watching Rangers march off with five successive championships, the patience of the large and faithful Parkhead support is being tested to the extreme.

Brady admits the Jordan move — with previous assistant Tommy Craig shifted to youth organiser and coach Mick Martin sacked — is a win-or-bust strategy. "I am trying to set up a policy that will carry this club into the future," he says.

There's no doubt that Brady has embroidered his team with the kind of thoughtful, attractive football that characterised his days as a player with Arsenal, Juventus and Inter.

But there is equally no doubt that Celtic have lacked a cutting edge and a mental toughness to grind out wins. Jordan — who led a Hearts side that possess more guts than resources to a second place in 1992 — is likely to provide that.

Jordan may be uncomfortable at his depiction as a tough guy in what has been described as a good-cop-bad-cop partnership, but Brady has done little to dispel that notion.

"Joe is a hard man," he says. "When I looked at what was needed here and the type of character I wanted, Joe immediately came to mind.

"It's not all about shouting — I'm not sure if Joe does — but he certainly gets his message across."

Jordan insists: "I've always been a fair man in my managerial career — but there is no substitute for physically or mentally trying to improve your game!

"I can make players aware of their duties, but it's all down to them in the end."

Back to Brady, who says: "I'm very excited about this partnership — and very relieved. Joe was the man I wanted once he became available but he said he wanted to return to England. We had several meetings in the most secret of places to avoid being spotted — which is not easy in Scotland — before I convinced him to take the job."

Jordan, who scored for Scotland in the finals of three World Cups, is chiefly responsible for working with the players on a day-to-day basis, and has targeted one area for immediate improvement: the appalling home record.

"I watched Celtic several times last season and their home results were not what they should have been.

"We have to become more consistent in that area if we are going to improve.

"I had an offer to manage a club in England and there was no other club in Scotland which would have kept me here apart from Celtic."

Jordan is not a "yes" man — he fell out with Wallace Mercer, his chairman at Hearts, over the amount of money he had to spend.

He insists, however, that making the transition from main man to deputy is not impossible.

"It's a partnership and something that Liam and I will have to work at, but he is still the boss."

Brady has underlined that the buck will stop with him, declaring: "I will make the final decision.

"But you don't bring a man with Joe's record here and tell him what to do or not to do. Joe will have specific duties, and will be allowed to get on with them."

Certainly, Celtic chairman Kevin Kelly outlined the board's enthusiasm for the Brady-Jordan axis.

"This is a partnership that we believe will see us back at the very top of British and European football," he says.

That's optimism for you — the club are £4 million in debt!

PHIL GORDON

Rangers go even further ahead

"WE'RE the biggest club in Britain — people had better realise that!" These were the words of Rangers chairman David Murray after his club had broken the British transfer record by paying Dundee United £4 million for 21-year-old striker Duncan Ferguson.

United's decision to sell Ferguson to Rangers provided the final chapter in a long and often acrimonious verbal battle between the clubs, which had begun several months previously. United had then made it clear that they would not sell their most valuable possession to a Scottish rival.

A close-season move to Leeds United then appeared likely, but eventually Ferguson's transfer to Ibrox was finalised by Murray's record-breaking bid.

The signing has significant implications for Scottish football, setting Rangers even further apart from the chasing pack.

Despite winning all three domestic trophies last season, Rangers are clearly intent on enhancing their already formidable squad with the best players available.

Hence their determination to sign Ferguson.

The transfer also provides a notable watershed in Dundee United's recent history. For years, chairman and former manager Jim McLean refused to sell his top players to other Scottish clubs.

A few seasons ago, for example, he rejected a bid from Aberdeen for striker Davie Dodds, resulting in the player moving to Switzerland and joining Neuchatel Xamax, before eventually ending up at Pittodrie.

McLean then spurned big-money overtures from Rangers as they chased defender Richard Gough, who was sold to Tottenham before completing the final leg of his round trip to Ibrox.

McLean was expected to remain equally pragmatic about selling Ferguson, but he has now relinquished his management duties in favour of a permanent seat in the boardroom.

He has been replaced, somewhat surprisingly, by Serbian import Ivan Golac, a former Yugoslav international who used to play for Southampton.

One of the most surprising summer transfers was Hibernian's gamble by recruiting 35-year-old former international goalkeeper Jim Leighton from Dundee, despite the fact that they already had two top keepers on their books.

Manager Alex Miller added to his backroom staff by taking on the experienced Eamonn Bannon as coach.

Bannon had been released by Hearts, having also played for Chelsea and Dundee United during a 17-year career as a midfielder.

Hearts gained a surprise place in the UEFA Cup when the two Polish contenders were barred because of the match-fixing scandal — and drew a plum tie against Atletico Madrid.

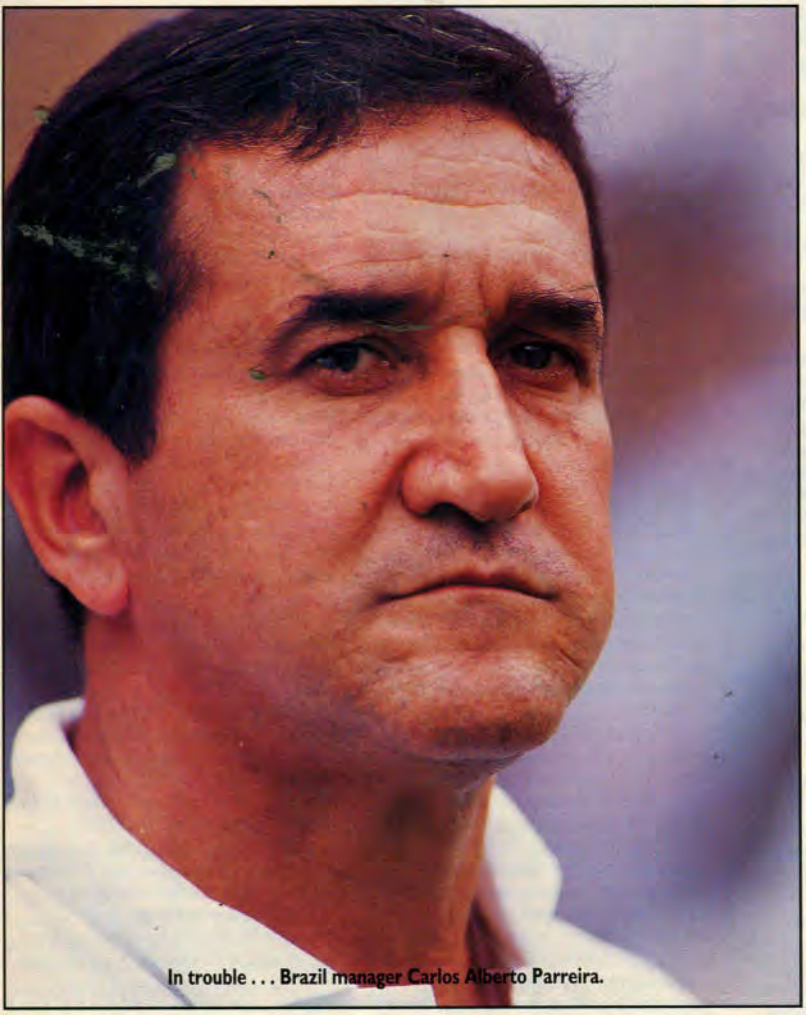
"A great chance for us," said manager Sandy Clark, whose club got into the draw on the day it was made.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Record signing . . . Duncan Ferguson arrives at Ibrox.

BRAZIL

Failure in La Paz starts a storm



In trouble . . . Brazil manager Carlos Alberto Parreira.

BRAZIL'S World Cup qualifying campaign got off to a turbulent start when they drew 0-0 with Ecuador and then lost 2-0 to Bolivia in the thin air of La Paz.

With six games left, including four at home, and two teams qualifying from group B, it was still early for panic stations, but the results were enough to unleash a barrage of hostility against the manager, Carlos Alberto Parreira, whose honeymoon with press and public came to an abrupt end.

From being the man who brought the prestige back to Brazilian football — that was how he was widely acclaimed last year after wins over France and Germany in the space of four months — Parreira suddenly found himself public enemy number one.

Even an easy victory away to Venezuela in the next game did little to pacify the fans, although they appreciated some old-style finishing in a 5-1 win.

Defeat against Bolivia brought predictably hysterical and venomous attacks with the equally predictable calls for his removal.

There were also the customary reports about players being unsatisfied about being left on the bench — in other words a typical Brazil World Cup campaign.

"Parreira goes down in history," proclaimed one newspaper, referring to the fact that it was Brazil's first-ever defeat in a World Cup qualifier.

Ironically, Brazil finished the match against Bolivia with virtually the team most of the press and public had been clamouring for.

The 0-0 draw with Ecuador was followed by widespread demands that Brazil replace Careca with Muller (or better still Romario), Luis Henrique with Cafu, Zinho with Palhina, and Branco with Leonardo.

Parreira went part of the way at the start when Leonardo and Muller came in.

Cafu also was picked, at right-back instead of midfield, but moved up in the 38th minute when Luis Henrique was taken off suffering from the effects of altitude, and Jorginho went on.

Palhinha was brought on in the second half but replaced Rai instead of the much-criticised Zinho, clearly out of his depth in the national team.

A draw at that stage may have been considered a good result for Brazil in view of the difficulties of playing in La Paz. But everything went up in smoke in a disastrous last three minutes.

Bolivia's talented Marco Etcheverry got to the by-line after forcing off a weak challenge. There were no Bolivians in the six-yard box to meet his cross, but Taffarel deflected the ball into his own goal.

One minute later Alvaro Pena ran through a demoralised defence to score and leave Parreira to await the predictable verdict back home.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

Friends fall out

FLAMENGO'S players, tired of attacking referees, reporters and opponents, have now started fighting with each other.

Renato and Djalminho had to be separated as they argued and then pushed and shoved each other during a 3-2 defeat by Fluminense in the meaningless Rio-Sao Paulo tournament. All this while Fluminense were on the attack.

Apparently Renato was upset when Djalminha told him to get back and mark — admittedly not one of his strong points.

Renato replied that "Djalminha swore at me and that is something I will not allow."

Djalminha, 22, has been involved in similar but less dramatic discussions with team-mates in the past and Flamengo's directors took the rather drastic step of ending his contract with the club.

For Renato, the former international and AS Roma player, the incident was yet another in a long career of controversy and bust-ups with his team-mates and coaches. This has not been a good year for him.

He joined Flamengo in January but was kept out by injury after a few matches, and has now been suspended by the club "for an undetermined period."

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

In the middle . . . Cesar Sampaio of Palmeiras takes on two Corinthians.

Guess what? A few more tournaments

FOOTBALL authorities might fit four elephants into a Volkswagen more easily than find room for extra competitions in Brazil's already jam-packed calendar.

But when Brazilian directors have the political will, they can do virtually anything and, after much pushing and shoving, the country has been rewarded with FOUR new tournaments.

First, a reminder of what they faced.

Brazil already has 27 regional football championships, a national championship with 32 teams in the First Division and a nationwide cup, the Brazil Cup.

Most top clubs embark on several excursions abroad a year to bring in extra cash, and can be involved in one or more of the five (at the last count) South American club competitions. Remember, a year has only 12 months.

There are also the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament, the Rio Grande do Sul tournament and the so-called Ricardo Teixeira Cup.

The first involves four of the best from each of Rio and Sao Paulo (Flamengo, Fluminense, Botafogo, Vasco da Gama, Corinthians, Palmeiras, Santos and Portuguesa), the second two from each of Minas (Atletico Mineiro, Cruzeiro) and Rio Grande do Sul (Internacional and Gremio) and the third eight second-rate teams from Rio and Sao Paulo.

In choosing who are "the best", the directors again decided that their opinions were more important than the facts, as neither Portuguesa nor Botafogo finished in the top four in state championships earlier this year.

The reward for the winners of each competition is to take part in another tournament, the Joao Havelange Cup.

The directors did not convince the public that the tournament would be worth watching, especially with Brazil involved in World Cup qualifiers.

Attendances were correspondingly disastrous (5,000 for Flamengo v Palmeiras, 29 for Diaria v America).

To everyone apart from the directors, it is obvious that more football is the last thing Brazil needs. What is really wanted, as so many have said so often for so long, is simple: a national championship with 20 or so teams decided on points, as in Europe.

No fancy formulas, no changing the rules at the last minute to stop certain clubs being relegated, no regional competitions. If only the directors had the political will.

● Brazil lost the World Club Cup, played annually between the European Champions' Cup-winners and the Libertadores Cup-winners. It was stolen from Sao Paulo's trophy room (which contains some 1,500 items) and, a few days later, was found in a bin.

Argentina

Cordoba court case drags on

TALLERES CORDOBA, the club who took the Argentine FA to court, have won their case, but are now awaiting the result of an appeal against the decision.

The action arose after a referee sent off five Talleres players in a match against River Plate.

They lost the points and the subsequent suspensions had such a bearing on their remain fixtures that they were relegated.

The judge also ruled that an FA law — which is really a FIFA law — forbidding clubs to go to an ordinary court, was unconstitutional and not valid.

In charge . . . Carlos Bianchi of Velez Sarsfield.

As a result an extraordinary general meeting, called by the FA to suspend Talleres' affiliation, supported the FA but could not legally take a decision.

Court cases take quite some time in Argentina, and the matter is still pending.

The National "A" Division's closing championship finished with Velez Sarsfield as three-point winners. Their last match was against second-placed Independiente, but the title had been decided by then and the game was a tame 0-0 frolic.

The biggest difference in Velez Sarsfield's favour were three potential goal-scoring forwards — Jose Flores, Esteban Gonzalez and Omar Asad.

But they lost form over the final weeks, creating something of a record by finishing first despite winning only one of their last six games. Other leading clubs, however, did no better.

Velez Sarsfield qualify for next year's Libertadores Cup with the opening championship winners, Boca Juniors. But who are the champions?

Under the current format there is none and even if points from both the opening and closing championships were added, Boca, Velez and River Plate would finish top with the same number.

Velez Sarsfield, founded in 1910 and in the First Division since 1919, have won the national title only once — in 1968.

Their current coach is Carlos Bianchi, who is the club's all-time top scorer with 207 goals. Modestly he says his part in winning the title is not more than 25 per cent.

Ruben Da Silva, a Uruguayan who plays for River Plate, was top scorer in the closing championship with 13 goals.

ERIC WEIL

Colombia

Valencia is now in Germany

AFTER several false starts, Colombian international forward Adolfo "El Tren" Valencia has signed for Bayern Munich.

They have paid Independiente Santa Fe £2.5 million, and Valencia signed a three-year contract.

The deal ends a long period of uncertainty over the player's destination, after Sante Fe had been fielding offers for him for well over a year.

Valencia, 25, has scored nine goals in 14 internationals.

While one Colombian international headed to Europe, another returned home.

Ivan Rene Valenciano rejoined Junior Barranquilla after what amounted to a year off with Italian club Atalanta.

To accommodate Valenciano up front, Junior have released their leading scorer from last season, Alex Comas.

In turn, Comas has rejoined a former club, in his case Union Magdalena.

So has Alex "Didi" Valderrama, the veteran international midfielder who had been playing in Venezuela.

Deportivo Cali have a new coach — Jose Yudica, a player with the club in the 1960s, who is now 56.

Moises Pachon is now coach at Cucuta, after a spell with Millonarios.

Sergio "Checho" Angulo, who had been playing for Pereira, was Pachon's first signing.

At Nacional, apart from the departure of World Cup player Luis Fajardo to Huila, the main talking point has been the growing injury list.

Nacional also took the unusual step of issuing a media release to quell persistent rumours that they were about to relax club rules and sign foreign players, and that Andres Escobar, the international defender, was about to leave.

KEITH SMITH

Uruguay

Julio's sale reduces chances

THE Uruguayan First Division continued while the national team played in the South American Championship and in World Cup qualifying games.

Penarol continue at the top, with a three-point lead over Defensor Sporting and Danubio.

Nacional are fourth six points behind and the sale of Julio Dely Valdez to Cagliari further diminishes their chances of catching the leaders.

Dely Valdez, the first Panamanian to play in Italy, cost almost £2 million.

Meanwhile numerous former and present internationals are expected back from abroad, judging by names registered by a number of clubs.

Penarol have registered Jorge Da Silva (America Cali), Jose Batista (Deportivo Espanol, Argentina) and Nelson Gutierrez (Logrones, Spain).

The top scorer is Penarol's Gabriel Cedres, with nine goals.

ERIC WEIL

PARAGUAY: With two games to go in the first round of the First Division, which puts the top four into a final round, Cerro Porteno lead classic rivals Olimpia by one point.

Guarani and Sportivo Luqueno are three and five points further back.

Cerro Porteno have been short of four internationals and Olimpia lost seven as the tournament continued while Paraguay played in the Copa America and World Cup.

VENEZUELA: Sport Maritimo won the home leg of the Championship play-off against Minerven 1-0, to leave the aggregate score 1-1.

This forced a penalty decider for the title — both teams had finished level on 41 points — which Maritimo won 7-6. Both qualify for next year's Libertadores Cup.

CHILE: The championship began with Colo Colo having been the biggest close-season spenders on players such as striker Marcelo Vega and Bolivian international midfielder Marco Etcheverry.

Elias Figueroa, perhaps Chile's most famous former international, became coach of his first club, Wanderers, now in the Second Division.

Oscar winner

An inspiration at the back

ARGENTINA, deprived of the genius of Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia, drew their inspiration from experienced defender Oscar Ruggeri as they retained the Copa America in Ecuador.

Ruggeri, sole surviving member of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph in Alfio Basile's squad — barring another comeback by Maradona — lifted the Copa America for the second time in two years, to add the double to a remarkable career.

Ruggeri equalled the 81-cap record set by Maradona when he led Argentina to victory over Mexico in the final.

He had said early on, when Argentina were struggling: "I really want to win the title again because, having turned 31 last January, it is probably my last."

When, as the Argentines say, "the potatoes were burning", Ruggeri inspired them, first to a tight win over Bolivia by laying on the only goal and then, with a timely equaliser, to a lucky draw against the Mexicans.

Ruggeri, throughout his career has played with the verve of his predecessor Daniel Passarella, combining strong surges into attack with fine headers at both ends of the field.

Only in scoring has Ruggeri failed to emulate Passarella, the highest-scoring defender in Argentine football history with 22 goals in 72 internationals.

Ruggeri's strike against Mexico was only his sixth goal for Argentina, unless you also count one against the Rest of the Americas in September 1991.

Part of the reason surely, lies with the coaches. Passarella was Cesar Luis Menotti's man, an attacking central defender and an inspirational captain.

Ruggeri won more than half of his caps under the cautious Carlos Bilardo, scoring four goals in 55 internationals and two under "Coco" Basile, who gave him the captain's armband in 1991 when Maradona quit for the first time after the 1990 World Cup final.

Ruggeri's leadership stands Argentina in good stead at a time when deprived of midfielder Dario Franco with a broken leg, they lack a player to lift them above the ordinary.

Ruggeri, a modest man devoted to his family, is well respected by his Argentina team-mates and a comment made by Maradona back in 1987 is as valid now as it was then.

"As a footballer, and within the group, he's nearly as big as Passarella. He's won everything and he's still the same as when he hadn't won anything," Maradona said.

Ruggeri has played for both Argentina's big two, Boca Juniors and River Plate, as well as Velez Sarsfield, Spain's Logrones and Real Madrid, Ancona of Italy and America of Mexico.

The Mexico triumph made 1986 his best year in terms of silverware.

He helped River plate to a South American treble of Argentine Championship, Libertadores Cup and Intercontinental title, when they beat Champions' Cup-winners Steaua Bucharest in Tokyo.

The ambitious Ruggeri arrived at River Plate from arch-rivals Boca Juniors in 1984 — a move viewed almost as badly in Argentina as a player from Celtic joining Rangers.

He was the archetypal Boca player when he stormed into the first team in 1980, an 18-year-old oozing self-confidence.

He had strength and fighting spirit if little in the way of ball skills.

A year later he was a member of the Maradona-inspired Boca side who won the First Division Championship.

Ruggeri left Boca in a row over pay and became part of a very successful River Plate side, with fellow World Cup-winners Nery Pumpido in goal and Americo Gallego in midfield.

Ruggeri's success at River Plate led to a lucrative move to Logrones, where he stood out as one of the best imports in Spain and was snatched by Real Madrid, then under John Toshack.

But he had a poor season at Real before the 1990 World Cup, plagued by injury and often having to play out of position at left-back.

A return to Argentina, with Velez Sarsfield, revived his flagging career, and being at home he soon became the obvious choice as captain for Basile, who took charge of the national team in January 1991.

Ruggeri has since moved to Mexico via Ancona but, as long as Maradona does not return, he can expect to lead Argentina in his third World Cup next year.

When he took on the captaincy he said it was only on an interim basis until Maradona ended his suspension for taking drugs and returned to the game.

So far, Ruggeri has stepped aside for only two matches, when Maradona led Argentina against Brazil and Denmark last February. Ironically, it was not the happiest moment of Ruggeri's international career. He was sent off against Brazil and suspended for the game against the Danes.

He has taken over again in style, his performances in Ecuador earning him a place in most people's best Copa America team.

PHIL McVIE

SPOTLIGHT ON
OSCAR RUGGERI

PRO-FILE

OSCAR ALFREDO RUGGERI
AMERICA (Mex) & ARGENTINA

Born: 26 January 1962, in Corral de Bustos, Cordoba province, Argentina.

Previous clubs: Boca Juniors, River Plate, Logrones, Real Madrid, Velez Sarsfield, Ancona, America (Mexico).

League debut: 1980 (with Boca Juniors).

International caps: 81 (6 goals)

HONOURS

World Cup: 1986.

Copa America: 1991, 1993.

Artemio Franchi Trophy: 1993.

Intercontinental Cup: 1992.

Argentine Championship: 1981 *(with Boca Juniors)*, 1986 *(with River Plate)*.

Libertadores Cup: 1986 *(with River Plate)*.

World Club Cup: 1986 *(with River Plate)*.

Striker faces rape charge

BRAZILIAN striker Antonio Carlos Santos has been jailed pending trial on a rape charge.

Santos, who had been playing for a Mexican club, America, had gone on loan to FC Porto in Portugal. Blood tests have been taken to establish whether or not he could have fathered a child born to the woman in the case.

Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita (right) is still awaiting trial after allegedly being involved in a kidnap-and-ransom case.

Main moves in South America this summer include: Gerardo Reinoso, Argentine midfielder, from Universidad Catolica (Chile) to Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas (Mexico) . . . Eduardo Berizzo, former Argentine international, from Newell's Old Boys (Argentina) to Atlas (Mexico) . . . Leonardo Biagini (Newell's Old Boys), who is 16, to Lazio (Italy) with an option to move permanently when he is 18 . . . Luis Artime, son of the former Argentine international of the same name, from Belgrano (Cordoba) to America (Colombia) . . . Sergio Goycochea, Argentine international goalkeeper, from Olimpia (Paraguay) to River Plate (Argentina) on a year's loan . . . Ruben Martinez, former Chilean international, from Colo Colo (Chile) to Santos (Mexico) . . . Richard Zambrano, Chilean international forward, from Universidad de Chile, and former Chilean international defender Lizardo Garrido, from Colo Colo (Chile), both to Santos (Mexico) . . . Marco Antonio Etcheverry, Bolivian international midfielder, from Bolivar (Bolivia) to Colo Colo (Chile).

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ERIC WEIL sums up the Copa America

Clean and even, but not classy

Pre-eminent . . . the winning Argentine squad celebrate.

ARGENTINA'S victory in the 36th South American Championship — their 14th triumph, and second in succession — saved the South American Football Confederation a bit of embarrassment.

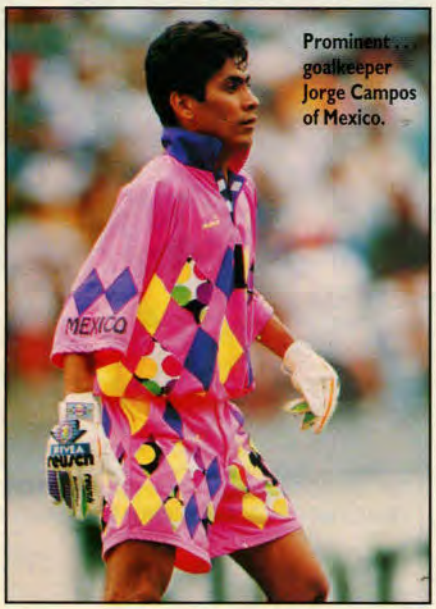
For the first time, two countries from the North, Central American and Caribbean Federation had been invited to participate as guests, but no thought had been given to what would happen if one of them won the tournament.

How can you have a South American Championship won by a nation outside South America? One of them almost did win — Mexico reached the final and lost only 2-1 to Argentina who, for the first time in their six games, managed to score more than one goal.

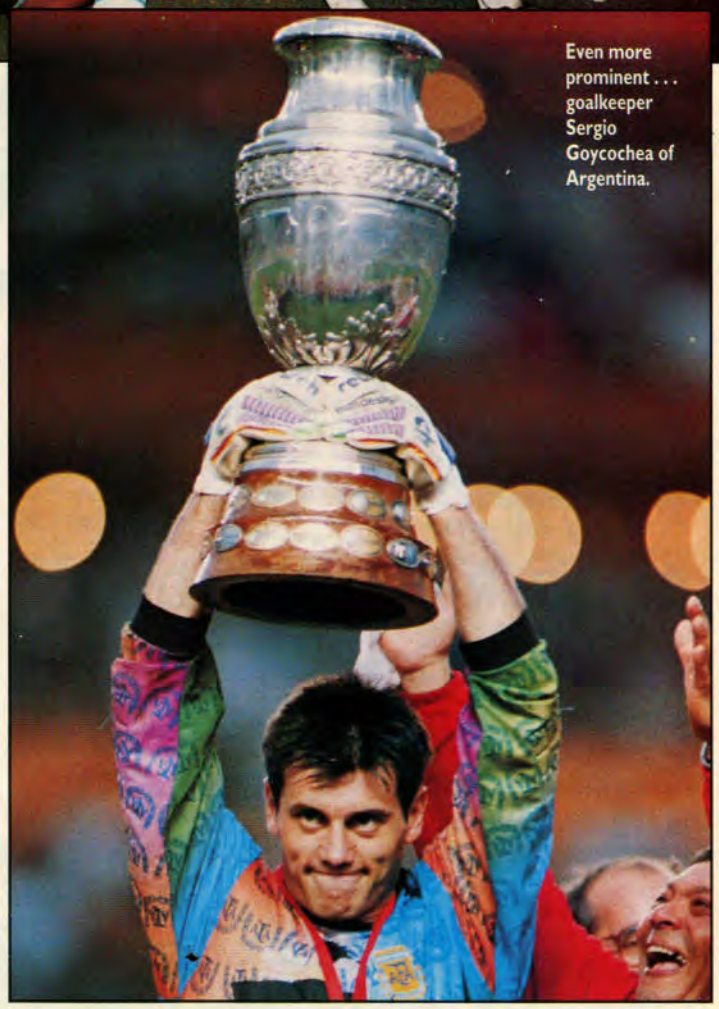
Mexico, of course, went to Ecuador as the only team with World Cup qualifying worries behind them.

All the others — except Chile, who are barred from the next World Cup — had their eye on World Cup games to be played almost immediately afterwards, and used the Copa America as a warm-up.

Not only that, but leading teams realised they could not get their foreign-based stars for both this tournament and World Cup games — covering a period of three months — and even if they could, these players would not be fully fit, and needed a rest from their hectic European season.



Prominent . . . goalkeeper Jorge Campos of Mexico.



Even more prominent . . . goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea of Argentina.

So it was a question of either going all out for the Copa America or a place in next year's World Cup finals, and all countries chose the latter, to the detriment of quality.

The Copa America was a victim of dates — wedged between an ending European season which made a number of exiles arrive too late, and the World Cup games.

Brazil suggested that the tournament should be held every four years in future to avoid this, but CONMEBOL confirmed that the two-yearly schedule would continue, with possible changes.

There would be no problem in 1995, but in 1997 World Cup qualifying games would be spaced out over the year, as in Europe, to avoid the clash.

This was an even tournament with no outstanding team and no outstandingly weak team.

There were no brilliant strikers, and the stars were goalkeepers Sergio Goycochea of Argentina, for his penalty saves, and Mexico's Jorge Campos, for his style as a virtual "libero" behind his defence.

Pele had a different theory. He said that the difference between weak and strong teams was disappearing, and that this would again be apparent in next year's World Cup.

Television was again the god. *Gamavision* took the games live to 107 countries and paid £1.8million for the rights, which virtually finances the tournament.

But this meant some of the games kicked off at 11am in terrific heat, which did little for the quality of soccer. Heat proved worse than altitude at the majority of the venues.

This was the first Copa America in which seven grounds at six venues were used — by request of the Ecuadorian government, whose financial backing for preparations made the event possible.

The stadiums were all right, although press arrangements at some were chaotic, but the lack of sufficient seats on airlines meant that getting quickly from one venue to another was difficult.

The final was in the magnificent but half-empty Monumental Stadium in Guayaquil — capacity 100,000 — which ranks among the best in the world but is built alongside a stinking river on the edge of a huge shanty town.

Only Ecuador and much cheaper ticket prices would have filled it with Ecuadorians, many of whom earn less than £100 a month.

Strikers in short supply

ARGENTINA had their strongest team available, including 13 of the squad who won the previous tournament.

Coach Alfio Basile had said he could not keep a team in peak form over the period covering both the Copa America and World Cup, and his men were certainly not at their peak in Ecuador.

Lack of training (players assembled at the last moment) and fitness showed, as did the wrong tactics.

Argentina tried to attack with one (Batistuta), or sometimes two men, with a lack of variation and surprise, and their defence floundered.

They were outplayed in most games, passing two rounds on penalties, and won the final when Batistuta managed to escape twice to score in the last 27 minutes.

TOP MAN: goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea.

MEXICO were the best prepared team, all good ball players and good at reducing space for rivals in midfield and defence.

TOP MEN: goalkeeper Jorge Campos, striker Hugo Sanchez.

COLOMBIA played the best soccer with good rotation, a strong midfield and good use of wings, but lacked penetration, and like Argentina, scored only six goals in six undefeated games. Their 2-4-0 record left them third.

TOP MEN: midfielder Freddy Rincon, forward Faustino Asprilla.

ECUADOR took fourth place, their best in the tournament.

They were favoured by home advantage and altitude, but their disciplined team are now no longer among the weak sides of the continent.

TOP MAN: inspirational forward Alex Aguinaga.

VENEZUELA gave their best performance ever with a new, mostly young team under Yugoslav coach Ratomir Dujkovic.

They are still the weakest in South America, but did not play a defensive game as before.

They tried to face rivals on equal terms, which proved fatal in first game against Ecuador, then almost got them victories against Uruguay and the US. One more point would have put them into the quarter-finals.

TOP MAN: Stalin Rivas, who plays in Belgium.

THE UNITED STATES found this tournament sandwiched between the US Cup '93 and the CONCACAF championship, and sent virtually a reserve team.

They were invited as the last CONCACAF champions, and in future such guests should not treat the Copa America as a training exercise.

TOP MEN: Uruguayan-born Fernando Clavijo and Tab Ramos.

CHILE were the only South American team not using this tournament as a warm-up for the World Cup (from which they are banned) were expected to do better. They played good soccer which did not produce goals, and were unlucky.

One more goal, deserved against either Paraguay or Peru, would have put them in the quarter-finals and then anything could have happened.

Their trump card and only exile, Real Madrid's Ivan Zamorano, arrived in time for only their last vital group match, against Peru, and failed to score.

TOP MEN: defender Gabriel Mendoza, midfielder Fabian Estay and forward Richard Zambrano.

BOLIVIA were well prepared, due to no domestic soccer in progress and showed improvement under Spanish coach Xavier Azkargorta, but were unlucky to be drawn in group C. The other teams in that section finished 1-2-3 in the final places.

The Bolivians did not deserve to lose 1-0 to Argentina and drew with Mexico and Colombia, looking just as good as the others.

TOP MAN: midfielder Marco Antonio Etcheverry.

PARAGUAY were affected by internal squabbles, and having three coaches in a year did not help an ageing team.

They barely deserved their only victory, against Chile, which got them into the quarter-finals.

TOP MAN: no consistently outstanding player.

BRAZIL played their usual good brand of soccer, showing more individual talent than tactics in what was a "B" team without European-based players (rested for the World Cup).

TOP MEN: defender Cafu and midfielder Palinha.

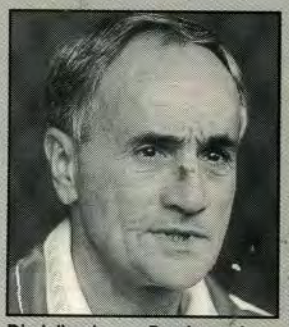
PERU were unexpected quarter-finalists, revealing more discipline under Yugoslav coach Vladimir Popovic, but only showed up well in defence.

TOP MEN: goalkeeper Miguel Miranda and libero Jose del Solar.

URUGUAY were uninspiring without their Italian-based players — three were registered in the squad but did not go. Especially short of ideas in attack.

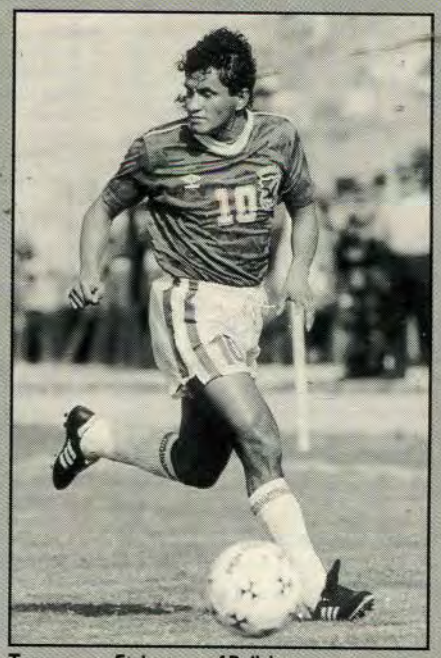
TOP MEN: Robert Siboldi (goal), Fernando Kanapkis (defence).

Top man . . . Aguinaga of Ecuador.



Disciplinarian . . . Peru's coach, Vladimir Popovic.

Top man . . . Rivas of Venezuela.



Top man . . . Etcheverry of Bolivia.

FOOT NOTES

Uruguay the next hosts

- Uruguay will stage the next Copa America in 1995, but have only one stadium in condition — the Centenario in Montevideo where the 1930 World Cup was held — and must refurbish at least three others. Mexico are willing to host the tournament if Uruguay cannot.
- Ideal team chosen by journalists at the tournament: Goycochea (Argentina), Cafu (Brazil), Ruggeri (Argentina), Luis Capurro (Ecuador), Olivares (Peru), Carcelen (Ecuador), Aguinaga (Ecuador), Del Solar (Peru), Rincon (Colombia), Valencia (Colombia), Muller (Brazil).
- Only four coaches have remained with their teams since the 1991 Copa America — Alfio Basile (Argentina), Arturo Salah (Chile), Dusan Draskovic (Ecuador) and Luis Cubilla (Uruguay).
- The Fair Play Trophy was won by Ecuador, with Mexico second. Overall it was a relatively clean tournament — only nine sent off in 26 matches. Argentina topped the yellow cards count with 15.
- Luis Angel Perea would have equalled Arnoldo Iguaran's Colombian record of 61 caps if he had not been sent off in the semi-final, thus missing the third place play-off with suspension.
- Dusan Draskovic, Ecuador's Yugoslav coach, who said before the tournament that he would go home when his contract ends, said later that he would stay in Ecuador and probably coach a club.
- No positive dope tests were recorded in 104 samples taken.
- An estimated profit of £550,000 is divided by the Ecuadorian FA (30 per cent), CONMEBOL (10) and the participating countries (70).

This is apart from the £300,000 going to the winners, £220,000 to the losing finalists, £69,000 each to the losing semi-finalists, and £28,000 each to the others.

SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

14: Argentina. ***13:*** Uruguay. ***4:*** Brazil. ***2:*** Peru, Paraguay. ***1:*** Bolivia.

COPA AMERICA WINNERS

(not played on seven occasions)

11: Argentina. ***9:*** Uruguay. ***4:*** Brazil. ***2:*** Peru, Paraguay. ***1:*** Bolivia.

ALL TIME RECORDS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	149	97	27	25	372	139	221
Uruguay	151	90	20	42	341	167	200
Brazil	133	70	25	38	305	168	165
Paraguay	130	52	23	55	211	240	127
Chile	138	49	22	67	224	251	120
Peru	107	38	25	44	163	176	101
Colombia	70	20	17	33	79	139	57
Bolivia	80	13	17	50	74	228	43
Ecuador	89	10	17	62	92	264	37
Venezuela	30	1	6	23	22	109	8
Mexico	6	2	2	2	2	9	6
United States	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

McEWAN'S LAGER NATIONAL FOOTBALL SHOW 1993

National Exhibition Centre 4th—5th September 1993

It's Showtime

Birmingham goes soccer crazy on the 4th and 5th of September as the third National Football Show kicks off at the NEC.

There will be no FA Premiership action that weekend with England on World Cup duty, but there'll be plenty of skills and thrills on display at the soccer extravaganza.

Some of the biggest clubs in Britain will be represented, with their star players ready to meet YOU and sign autographs.

There'll be a World Cup Showcase with official merchandise available, plus all the advice you need from tour operators offering special World Cup holidays.

And you might even have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Diego Maradona, Dino Zoff and Lothar Matthaus by holding THE trophy aloft.

Organisers are hoping to have the World Cup on display at the Show, giving you the opportunity to have your picture taken with the most treasured trophy in football.

Also included in the weekend of fun will be:

★ **SONDICO SPONSORED PENALTY SHOOT-OUT:** Try out your spot-kick skills against some of the top goalkeepers in Britain.

★ **SHOOT SUPERSTARS CHALLENGE:** The top weekly paper will be there to test out your shooting power with our hi-tec radar gun. Can you beat our current hot-shot, Swindon's Nicky Summerbee with 87mph?

★ **IAN RUSH/NIKE 6-A-SIDE FINALS:** Watch the pulsating action in this highly competitive six-a-side tournament.

★ **COERVER COACHING:** Take part in the skill demonstrations by the world-renowned Coerver Coaching staff.

★ **BRAIN OF SOCCER:** How extensive is your soccer knowledge? Tackle the quiz challenge and find out.

And there'll be plenty more spectacular action with 6-a-side matches and mini soccer for the younger visitors, video displays of some of the world's greatest games, interviews with stars past and present and loads, loads more.

● Tickets for the National Football Show can be purchased in advance by phoning 0733-890155 . . . £5 adults and £3 children and senior citizens — a saving of £1 on the price at the door.

A family ticket, admitting two adults and two children, is also available in advance, price £15.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Players complain about the draft

MEXICO, who went close to winning the Copa America this year, at the first attempt, almost did not go.

A few days before the team were due to leave for Ecuador, the players refused to travel unless the Mexican FA agreed to abolish the annual draft, or sale, which is common in US professional sports but not in soccer and which the players called a "slave market".

Last-minute negotiations between league and players led to an agreement that a players' commission would be forced to participate in next year's draft, but that it would remain. On the first day Guadalajara, known as the "peoples' team" because they use only Mexicans, spent nearly six million dollars on eight players — Carlos Turrubiates, Missael Espinosa, Alberto Garcia Aspe (below), Alberto Coyote, Jose Manuel de la Torre, Eduardo Fernandez, Alfredo Murguia and Mauricio Gonzalez.

They also were reported to have bid for Luis Garcia, currently with Atletico Madrid.

In all, 98 players were put up for sale in the annual draft held in the Pacific resort of Acapulco, and other leading sales were Daniel Guzman from Atlante to Santos, Chilean Carlos Poblete from Cruz Azul to Veracruz, and Anibal Gonzalez "Dunga" from Morelia to Monterrey.

An estimated £13 million changed hands.

COSTA RICA

HEREDIANO, winners of the regular championship, and Cartagines, who won the final round, were due to decide the title in Costa Rica, but the first leg went to the law courts and the second was suspended just before half-time.

Herediano won the first leg 2-0, but Cartagines claimed that the penalty with which they scored one of the goals was not valid.

The foul was outside the area, and they had a TV film to prove it.

They handed the film to their lawyers to go to court, and sent a copy and fax to FIFA to get their opinion.

Everything would have been settled if Herediano had got at least a draw in the second leg, to take the title on aggregate, but after 44 minutes a fan broke on to the field and was manhandled by police, who were then stoned by spectators.

Several police were injured and the match was suspended, so now both legs are pending decisions.

EL SALVADOR

LUIS ANGEL FIRPO, coached by Yugoslav George Kirk Dojcinoski, won the El Salvador championship for the third time in succession.

They beat Alianza 2-1 on the final day of the final round, to overtake them by one point.

Brazilian Celio Rodrigues scored the winner 10 minutes from the end.

HONDURAS

OLIMPIA easily won the final round of the championship.

They had won the regular championship as well, so no play-off was necessary.

ERIC WEIL

TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division — Closing Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	19	10	7	2	23	7	27
Independiente	19	6	12	1	23	14	24
San Lorenzo	19	8	6	5	27	19	22
Dep Espanol	19	9	4	6	24	18	22
River Plate*	18	9	3	6	31	21	21
Boca Juniors	19	6	9	4	23	18	21
Racing Club	19	9	3	7	22	17	21
Rosario Central	18	6	8	4	23	17	20
Huracan	18	7	6	5	22	21	20
Argentinos Jun.	19	3	13	3	12	12	19
Dep. Mandiyu	19	5	9	5	19	22	19
Estudiantes	19	5	8	6	23	20	18
Belgrano	19	4	10	5	13	22	18
Gimnasia	19	4	9	6	13	16	17
Lanus	19	3	11	5	12	15	17
FC Oeste	19	5	6	8	15	21	16
Talleres	18	4	7	7	15	27	15
Platense	19	3	8	8	14	26	14
Newell's OB	19	3	7	9	12	20	13
Tucuman	19	4	4	11	17	30	12

** Match pending court resolution. River lead 2-1.*

Lowest relegation averages (points over last three seasons — two clubs relegated): *Lanus 0,973; Belgrano 0,960; Mandiyu 0,947; Estudiantes & Gimnasia 0,929; Platense 0,921.* ***Relegated:*** *Talleres 0,893; San Martin 0,789.*

PARAGUAY
First Division (1st round)

After nine games — two to go: 1) Cerro Porteno 16pts; 2) Olimpia 15; 3) Guarani 12; 4) Sportivo Luqueno 10; 5) Presidente Hayes 9; 6) Nacional, Atletico Colegiales 8; 8) Cerro Cora, Sol de America 7; 10) Libertad 6; 11) River Plate, Sport Colombia 5.

URUGUAY
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	14	10	2	2	29	11	22
Defensor	14	6	7	1	16	6	19
Danubio	14	8	3	3	19	11	19
Nacional	14	6	4	4	19	15	16
Progreso	14	3	9	2	15	14	15
Liverpool	13	4	6	3	8	10	14
Rampla Juniors	14	3	7	4	11	13	13
Cerro	14	4	4	6	14	18	12
Bella Vista	14	3	5	6	12	12	11
Wanderers	14	3	5	6	13	19	11
Huracan Buceo	14	2	6	6	18	24	10
Racing Club	14	2	6	6	6	14	10
River Plate	13	2	4	7	9	22	8

COLOMBIA
First Division — 2nd stage

Overall standings after one game: 1) Atletico Junior 22 pts; 2) Nacional Medellin 21; 3) Once Philips, Millonarios 20; 5) Independiente Medellin, At. Huila, Bucaramanga 19; 8) America, Pereira 18; 10) Envigado 16; 11) Deportivo Cali, Indep. Santa Fe, Union Magdalena 15; 14) Quindio, Tolima 12;16) Cucuta 9.

EL SALVADOR
First Division — final round

Final after 6 games: 1) Luis Angel Firpo 9 pts; 2) Alianza 8; 3) Marte 4; 4) FAS 3.

HONDURAS
First Division — final round

Final after 8 games: 1) Olimpia 14 pts; 2) Marathon 8; 3) Motague 6;4) Petrotela 5; 5) Real Espana 3.

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AFCT kicks off to a great start!

Gordon Strachan.

FOLLOWING our announcement and then the formation of the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers, there has been a great show of interest. Many coaches and teachers have been in contact with the committee to express their encouragement with the Association and its activities.

Allen Wade, the former Director of Coaching at the Football Association and the Football Association of Ireland has offered his expertise with the Coaching Magazine as has his son Neil Wade and business partner Simon Conti.

They hope to produce the first magazine full of viewpoints and useful practices in late September or early October.

Colin Morris, the Birmingham Football Development Officer is preparing a PhD in Soccer — the first of its kind and his study of English Coaching and its development between 1966 and 1990 should be fascinating for those interested in and involved with soccer coaching.

"Why are Germany more successful than England?" asks Colin.

"Why do the Dutch repeatedly produce high class players and teams?

"Is there a link between the coaching development schemes and between the lack of success of our national team?"

Colin contacted the AFCT to seek help with compiling a list of qualified coaches to take part in his study.

He is preparing an in depth questionnaire and wants as many names and addresses of FA full-license coaches as possible so that their viewpoint can be heard in his study.

Every response will help make this piece of valuable research more valid, so please contact Colin with your name, address, telephone number, etc.

Obviously if you know of other qualified coaches in the game please ensure Colin gets their name and address also.

● Contact Colin at: 152 Braemar Road, Sutton Coalfield, West Midlands B73 6LZ.

Bob Wilson, along with Rob Littleford, will be planning the first practical session in the South for late August and then further sessions are planned for Sheffield (involving Coerver Coaching) and Leeds — possibly with Gordon Strachan and David O'Leary.

The next task for the AFCT is to build up membership and select some regional co-ordinators to help plan a structure of activities that will cover the country and give access to the thoughts and practices of the country's top coaches and managers.

The AFCT was featured in Football In Schools the official magazine of the English Schools FA and it has resulted in many teachers seeking to be involved. Also in Football In Schools was a feature on the launch of the Virgin Games Schools Football Initiative which is supported by adidas and SHOOT and aims to benefit all those involved in teaching soccer in schools by adopting the Coerver Coaching Method — as featured in SHOOT magazine every month.

It is clear then that changes are being welcomed in the approach to the coaching and teaching of soccer in this country. It must be hoped that it is not going to be too little, too late.

HOW TO JOIN THE AFCT

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- An adidas drill tracksuit (with AFCT badge).
- Special offers, to AFCT members only, of adidas products at special prices (details in magazine).
- Discount on all AFCT sessions and seminars etc for AFCT members.
- Cost £35 (£5 discount if you are already a member of a local coaching Association i.e. Sheffield or London Football Coaches Association).

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Please return with SAE to: Mr Rob Littleford, Administrator, AFCT, Penmore House, Hasland Road, Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 OSJ.

MARK GLEESON sums up the African Nations' Cup

OUT CAMEROON MOROCCO ZIMBABWE

THREE possible candidates for next year's World Cup finals in the United States have been eliminated from the African Nations' Cup.

Cameroon, Morocco and Zimbabwe — all still in the running for places in the World Cup — will not be going to the Nations' Cup finals in Tunisia next March.

Cameroon were eliminated in Group One of the qualifying tournament, losing out by a point to Gabon, while Zimbabwe lost by a similiar margin to Zambia to Group Five.

Morocco went even closer, with only one goal separating them from a final place at the expense of traditional rivals Egypt.

Only one place still remains to be filled, and another is in doubt.

The hosts, holders Ivory Coast and surprise early qualifiers Sierra Leone are joined by Algeria, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Zaire and Zambia.

Either Burundi or Guinea will take up the other spot, but the outcome of Group Six has been postponed because of political upheaval.

Guinea need an away win against bottom-placed Congo to go through, but post-election riots in Brazzaville meant that the match has been put off.

Algeria's position also is in doubt after an appeal by Senegal, who were beaten 4-0 in their final match but claimed that Algeria had used a suspended player, Mourad Meziane, in their game in Dakar last January.

Meziane had been sent off in Algeria's match against Togo and was to have served a two-match suspension, but missed only one.

The Confederation of African Football are investigating and have asked the Algerians for an explanation.

A quick decision has been promised from CAF headquarters in Cairo and Algeria face the prospect of being thrown out of the competition, as Togo were earlier in the year when they were found to have fielded a suspended player.

Senegal could then go through as second-placed finishers in Group Two, behind Sierra Leone.

Cameroon's elimination means they will miss out on a seventh consecutive appearance at the finals. They were beaten into second place when Gabon — through to the finals for the first time — beat Benin 2-1 away, with Jean-Daniel Ndong-Nze scoring in the final minute.

Cameroon had needed to beat Niger the same day, and did so, 2-0.

They then spent anxious moments listening to radios at the national stadium in Yaounde as news came through that Benin had taken a surprise lead, only to concede two second-half goals.

In Group Five Zambia needed an away draw in their final match, with Zimbabwe seeking victory for their first place in the finals. A 26th-minute goal by Henry McKop (left) put the Zimbabweans ahead, but captain Kalusha Bwalya equalised just before the final whistle.

Morocco, strong contenders for a World Cup place, had a heartbreak elimination after beating Malawi 2-0 in Blantyre.

They lost out by one goal as Egypt, beaten 2-1 in Mali, qualified on number of goals scored.

Both teams had tied on points and goal difference.

Mali topped the group to go through to the finals for the first time since 1972, when they finished runners-up to Congo.

West African giants Ghana and Nigeria completed their qualification with final-match victories. Ghana, who have captain Abedi Pele back from his international retirement, won 2-0 in Liberia, while Nigeria hammered Ethiopia 6-0.

Pele and German-based Anthony Yeboah scored in Monrovia against a star-studded Liberian side, including former African Footballer of the Year George Weah.

Rachidi Yekini scored a hat-trick as Nigeria pipped Uganda, 1-0 winners at home over Sudan, by one point.

Zaire topped Group Four on goal difference from Kenya after beating Lesotho 7-0 in Kinshasa — the highest score in all the qualifying matches. Kenya won 4-1 at home against Mozambique, but that was not quite enough.

Players overcoming problems

CAMEROON's win in Guinea in their second-round qualifier virtually secured their second successive appearance at the World Cup finals.

Ironically, it comes at a time of dire ills in the Cameroonian game, but as before, the national team have risen above the melee to again stake a claim on the international stage.

There were all sorts of problems, mainly to do with disappearing cash, when Cameroon went to the finals in Italy in 1990 and achieved the best performance by an African team — reaching the quarter-finals.

This time round, it sounds even worse.

The coach, Jules Nyongha, has been fired, and the running of the side has been taken over by a quartet of former internationals and a selection committee of 15!

The team, too, failed to qualify for the African Nations Cup finals, for the first time since 1980, and none of the big-name clubs managed to reach the quarter-finals of the three African club competitions.

Yet when it comes to the World Cup, Cameroon seem to do the business and their 1-0 win over Guinea in Conakry left them needing a single point from their final encounter, at home to Zimbabwe.

Given Zimbabwe's poor away record, that seems a formality.

Morocco, like Cameroon seeking a third appearance at the World Cup finals, are in the driving seat in their group.

They got two vital away points in a heated encounter with Senegal in Dakar, winning 3-1 in a match followed by riots that left one spectator seriously injured.

Zambia are buoyed by their successful return to the international stage after the plane crash that killed 18 players last April.

But whether they have enough depth in their new-look team remains to be seen.

In Group A, Ivory Coast are on course for their first appearance at the finals, but Nigeria are by no means out of the running.

The Ivorians have a three-point lead after beating Algeria 1-0 in Abidjan with a late goal from Joel Tiehi, but go to Nigeria still needing another point to ensure a place.

Nigeria have not lost a home match since 1980 and are unlikely to concede a point in Lagos, leaving the deciding role up to wooden-spoonists Algeria.

They are at home to Nigeria in the group's final match.

Nigeria hammered Algeria 4-1 in Lagos in July, coming back from an early goal.

Coach Clement Westerhoff finally seems to be settling on a consistent starting line-up, with key roles falling to 19-year-old Augustine Okocha, of Bundesliga club Eintracht Frankfurt, and big striker Rachidi Yekini, whose World Cup goal total now stands at six.

On course . . . Magui of Ivory Coast is heading for a place in the finals.

EAST and CENTRAL AFRICA

ANGOLA

MEMBERS of the Angolan First Division club Primiero Maio narrowly missed a death in an airline crash near the capital, Luanda.

A last-minute mix-up over tickets left the team grounded and the Angolan Air Force plane flew off without them.

All four crew were killed when the plane later crashed due to technical difficulties, according to investigators.

Primiero Maio, based in the southern city of Benguela, later flew into Luanda without incident.

MOZAMBIQUE

ARMY club Matchedje's 2-0 win over Costa do Sol in the top-of-the table battle has opened up their chances to take the title away from their Maputo neighbours.

In a friendly match, Sporting Lisbon beat Maxaquene 6-0 at the Machava Stadium, with Bulgarians Balakov and Iordanov getting two goals apiece.

REUNION

THE tiny French island, off the east coast of southern Africa but technically part of the European Economic Community, may play international football next year.

Reunion, granted associate membership status of the Confederation of African Football, are expected to enter clubs in next year's African Champions' Cup, Cup-winners' Cup and CAF Cup.

The island previously had only limited contact with African sport, playing in the Indian Ocean Games against Madagascar, Mauritius and the Comores Islands.

But just as other French possessions, such as Tahiti, Guadeloupe and Martinique, have earned FIFA status, so Reunion can become a separate footballing entity.

SPOTLIGHT ON **ABDELLAH OF MOROCCO**

The silent type *Nacer's boots do the talking*

AFTER Morocco's 1-0 win over Senegal in the World Cup, the country's top TV station had all the Moroccan contingent of European-based professionals around for a discussion.

All save one. For Nacer Abdellah, who played a leading part in the victory in the opening game of the second round of the African qualifiers for US '94 cannot speak a word of his mother tongue.

Abdellah, born in Morocco but brought up in Belgium, is a utility player with Cercle Bruges. He is no slouch with languages, speaking fluent French, Flemish and English, but not Arabic. Hence no appearances on talkshows.

This was only the third game for the 26-year-old Abdellah in Morocco's current World Cup campaign, and only his 16th cap since first being called for national duty in 1988.

But he still feels very much part of the squad, and confident they will qualify for the finals. "After the win against Senegal, I'm convinced we are going to America," he says. "It won't be easy, but we will do it."

Abdellah is part of a new generation of African internationals who were raised in Europe and have little socially in common with their team-mates.

They are well placed to comment on the ills of the game on the continent as they compare Europe's club standards with the international level in Africa. "Europe is better organised, but Africa is growing," says Abdellah. "We have a big role to play because the rest of the players look up to us."

Abdellah just shrugs when asked about politicians meddling in the African game, as happened at half-time in Casablanca when the team got a pep talk from a government minister and an emissary from the king.

There was no time for the coach to re-arrange tactics; everyone stood to attention as the officials ranted on, with soldiers guarding the doors. Fortunately, presumably, for the players, the Moroccans won and the minister and emissary were quick to join the players on the pitch for celebratory photos. Abdellah's only comment is: "That's Africa".

But it is a very real pressure. "I know that we have to win. That's the only thing that's expected of us, nothing less. For me, the top priority is to get a chance to play in the World Cup finals. It's every footballer's dream. I'm a Belgian citizen, but Morocco is my motherland. Belgium is my second country, but my heart is with Morocco and our dreams of the World Cup."

MARK GLEESON

ZAMBIA

AS the League reaches the halfway stage, so unfashionable Roan United are setting the pace.

Roan, from Luanshya, have a one-point advantage over defending champions Nkana FC, but a newly-built team look good enough to keep their top spot to the end of the year.

Nkana, who have dropped Red Devils from their team name after losing sponsorship from the Copperbelt mines, lost five players in the Zambian air disaster in April but have scored more goals than any other team in the Premier Division.

They also are still in contention in the Champions' Cup after edging out Sunrise SC of Mauritius on away goals in their delayed second-round tie.

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

A DANE, Jorgen Larsen, is the new coach of Black Stars, taking over from Romanian-born Petre Gaurilla, who had only two matches in charge.

Gaurilla was a temporary appointment in place of the German Otto Pfister, shown the door after Ghana failed to qualify for the second round of African qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup.

Gaurilla returns to his job at Accra's Hearts of Oak, leaving 47-year-old Larsen, a former coach in Gambia, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates, to restore Ghana's dented pride.

SENEGAL

ANOTHER managerial casualty followed the shock home defeat by Morocco in the World Cup qualifiers.

Boubacar Sarr resigned immediately after the 3-1 defeat, leaving Senegal seeking a fourth coach in an 18-month span.

Senegal might again go for a foreigner, given the poor record of Sarr, Youssou Toure and Lamine Dieng.

The last foreigner in charge was Frenchman Claude Le Roy, who left after Senegal's disappointing quarter-final exit at the Nations Cup finals in their own country in January 1992.

Sarr, 42, was an international for Senegal at the 1986 Nations Cup finals in Egypt and played in France for Marseille, Cannes, Paris St Germain and Martigues. He was one of Le Roy's assistants, in charge of Senegal's junior teams.

NIGER

ZUMUNTA AC of Niamey are the country's new champions, securing the title by two points from Olympic.

They finished with 28 points to Olympic's 26, after the six-team final round.

● UNFANCIED Olympique Beja will represent Tunisia in next year's African Cup-winners' Cup after a penalty shoot-out win the Cup Final against AS Marsa. The teams played a goalless draw before Beja clinched the Cup, and their first place in African competition, 3-1.

MARK GLEESON

SOUTH AFRICA

King's son joins Amazulu

KAIZER CHIEFS and Hellenic, both out of African club competitions on away goals, are back into League contention after less than satisfactory starts.

Chiefs, in particular, are improving under Englishman Geoff Hudson, who has replaced Sergio Dos Santos as coach.

Jomo Cosmos, still in the Cup-winners' Cup, are bottom of the table with more than half the season gone, having lost 11 times.

Coach Roy Matthews does not seem unduly alarmed, claiming that Cosmos have played better than the results so far achieved.

Durban side Amazulu, among the front runners all season, have a Zulu King's son in their squad.

Striker Nhlanganiso Zulu, 19, is pressing out-of-form international George Dearnley for his place.

Last season's top Second Division marksman, Robinson Seakamela of Vaa Professionals, has refound his shooting boots as they make steady progress in mid table, and is in consideration for the national squad.

Injuries, suspension and work commitments caused national coach Augusto Palacios to use newcomers for the Nations' Cup visits to Zambia and Mauritius.

Swallows keeper Rogeria Da Sa, son of a former Sporting Lisbon player, and Joas Mogolego of Sundowns looked set to win their first caps and Pitso Mosimane (Ionikos, Greece) and Eric Tinkler (Vitoria Setubal, Portugal), both on holiday, were called up for training for the first time.

Real Rovers of Mahwelreng head the "inland" Second Division and Royal Tigers from Umbumbulu lead the coastal group.

NSL RESULTS

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

AMAZULU 2 (Nzimande 29,36)
WELKOM EAGLES 1 (Moleko 55).

JOMO COSMOS 1 (Ngole 78)
DYNAMOS 0.

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 0
WITS UNIVERSITY 2 (Barker 30, Koseff 50).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

HELLENIC 3 (D. Byrne 52, Young 64, 84)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0.

KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Bwalya 77)
SANTOS 0.

QWAQWA STARS 0
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0.

WITBANK ACES 1 (S Mahlangu 67)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Nogueira 22).

FRIDAY, JULY 2

WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Batchelor 69)
WELKOM EAGLES 0.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

MOROKA SWALLOWS 0
PRETORIA CITY 1 (Steenkamp 49).

SUNDAY, JULY 4

CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Chagas 66)
HELLENIC 1 (Williams 6).

MAMELODI SUNDOWS 2 (Modau 23, Motaung 83)
JOMO COSMOS 3 (Ngole 15, Ndiaye 29, Donnelly 34).

ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Nsunda 36, Bantwana 68)
UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Augustine 24, Mayoyo 81 pen).

QWAQWA STARS 0
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0.

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 2 (Motsamai 9, Jowa 88)
KAIZER CHIEFS 2 (Modau 59, Khuse 75).

WITBANK ACES 0
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Nechironga 2).

TUESDAY, JULY 6

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Radford 42)
AMAZULU 1 (Chirwa 79).

FRIDAY, JULY 9

HELLENIC 2 (Young 12, D Byrne 37)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 2 (Zondi 34, Petersen 67).

SATURDAY, JULY 10

AMAZULU 3 (Nzimande 35, Rasmussen 57, 62)
UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Momo 36, Augustine 89).

QWAQWA STARS 1 (Ngodwane 40)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Hlongwane 35).

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 4 (Seakamela 2, 38, Vumisa 80, 86)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Nogueira 65).

SUNDAY, JULY 11

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (Ntjombo 23, 85)
WITS UNIVERSITY 0.

JOMO COSMOS 1 (Mncwango 73 pen)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Kgenkgwe 54).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

JOMO COSMOS 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0.

HELLENIC 0
WITS UNIVERSITY 0.

DYNAMOS 2 (Baloyi 35, Morodi 48)
ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Maoponyane 50, Makhanya 87).

THURSDAY, JULY 15

KAIZER CHIEFS 2 (Dube 49, Khuse 63)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Chasas 58).

FRIDAY, JULY 16

HELLENIC 0
MOROKO SWALLOWS 1 (Sikhonde 89).

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0
WITBANK ACES 1 (Ngobe 88).

SATURDAY, JULY 17

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 3 (B Massinga 19, Shai 44, 48)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Rowbotham 81).

SUNDAY, JULY 18

JOMO COSMOS 3 (Mwakupuki 34, Ngole 48, 74)
QWAQWA STARS 2 (Mbamabo 50 pen, Ngaduana 83)

WITBANK ACES 2 (Peer 32, Skosana 63)
SANTOS 1 (Stober 80).

NSL — *First Division*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moroka Swallows	23	12	7	4	27	18	31
Sundowns	21	12	4	5	35	17	27
Kaizer Chiefs	20	12	3	5	28	17	27
Amazulu	21	10	6	5	27	21	26
Umtata Bucks	22	8	9	5	27	24	25
Bloemfontein C.	21	9	6	6	23	22	24
Hellenic	21	7	9	4	30	23	23
Pretoria City	21	8	7	6	22	20	23
Wits University	23	10	3	10	21	24	23
Cape Town Spurs	22	7	8	6	25	21	22
Orlando Pirates	19	8	6	5	25	21	22
Chatsworth Ran.	23	5	12	6	23	21	22
Witbank Aces	23	8	6	9	29	32	22
Vaal Professionals	22	7	7	8	25	24	21
Santos	23	5	9	9	18	24	19
Jomo Cosmos	23	7	5	11	23	30	19
D'Alberton Callies	21	6	6	9	18	29	18
Dynamos	20	4	9	7	24	22	17
Qwaqwa Stars	23	2	10	11	13	22	14
Welkom Eagles	22	1	5	16	14	46	7

BARRY BAKER

MARK GLEESON charts the progress of a soccer nation recovering from tragedy, and interviews one of the key figures in the revival

From disaster to near triumph

JUST OVER four months have passed since 18 of Zambia's soccer stars died in a plane crash off the coast of Gabon.

The players, coaching staff, officials, a journalist and the flight crew were on route to a World Cup qualifying match in Senegal — Zambia's first port of call in their attempt at a first place in the World Cup finals.

The crash threatened to wipe out Zambia's chances, with the bulk of the squad lost when the plane burst into flames in mid-air.

The dead included six of the team who beat Italy 4-0 in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul — Zambia's finest footballing hour — plus the coaches.

They all now lie near the Independence Stadium in Lusaka, where Zambia's reconstructed team are trying to build on the past. Already the country have won their opening second-round African zone qualifier for the World Cup finals and have qualified for the African Nations' Cup finals in Tunisia next March.

Zambia's 2-1 victory over Morocco gave them a good start in the last round of Africa's World Cup qualifiers.

A 3-0 win over South Africa in Lusaka one week later left the country needing one more point to reach the Nations' Cup finals, which they achieved by drawing 1-1 in Zimbabwe.

Zambia's rapid recovery from the tragedy has come as a surprise to captain Kalusha Bwalya, one of three European-based professionals not on the ill-fated aircraft.

"I did not think that we would still be in contention," said the 29-year-old Bwalya, who plays for PSV Eindhoven in Holland.

"I would have been happy with drawing and not letting the people down. But we have done much better than we expected."

Namesake Johnson Bwalya, based in Switzerland with FC Bulle, missed a month's training camp for the 20-man squad in Denmark, paid for by the Danish government after the air crash.

The Bwalyas, who are not related, are the backbone of the side put together by coach Freddie Mwila, a member of the Zambian runners-up in the 1974 Nations' Cup.

Mwila left as national coach of Botswana to take charge after the crash.

"I wouldn't have taken on the job had I not thought we could have not kept the team on course for both the World Cup and the Nations' Cup.

"I'm not surprised with our results because we trained very well in Denmark and when we returned for the matches we had a lot of confidence," said Mwila.

"We have a lot of young players determined to keep up the name of Zambian football."

Now the team have been joined by Ian Porterfield, former manager of Sheffield Wednesday and Chelsea.

He will serve as general manager for four months on a contract partly funded by the British government.

"I'm so impressed with the attitude of the players. I've never seen such enthusiasm for football," he said.

Mwila is confident Zambia will qualify for the two tournaments next year. "We have not bought our tickets yet, but we've asked them to put us on standby."

Johnson guides the kids

JOHNSON BWALYA, one of Zambia's top European-based professionals, and a mainstay in the new-look national side, talks to* WORLD SOCCER *about the future for himself and for his country

WS: *You are one of the surviving members of the Zambian team, now playing a senior role as your country try to rebuild. The team are on the verge of qualification for the World Cup finals. Do you think they can go through?*
JB: At the moment, no, because we don't have experienced players. We are just building the team but we've started well. We are playing good football and will be giving all we have. The World Cup will be very difficult.

WS: *As a senior player, is there much pressure on you to carry the youngsters through these difficult matches?*
JB: The pressure is there, but I tell the youngsters to be cool, play football and forget the crowd. Sometimes the players are nervous in front of big crowds. We also encourage them in training and they are progressing very nicely.

WS: *Have you been surprised at the two wins that Zambia scored over Morocco and then South Africa?*
JB: At first I didn't believe we had the capability to win these games. I had been playing for Bulle in Switzerland and I missed the training camp in Denmark. I only joined the team in Zambia after their camp and I was surprised at their confidence, their work rate and how well things were going.

WS: *Where were you when news broke of the air crash?*
JB: I heard it on the morning after when I rang a friend in Lusaka. I wanted to tell him I was flying straight to Dakar, but I didn't get a chance to speak to him about that. He said to me "Hey, where are you?" because he had heard on the radio that the European-based professionals were also on the plane with the team. He was surprised that I was still alive. Then he told me. I couldn't believe it, I still don't.

WS: *Does the memory of your former team-mates spur you on now when you play?*
JB: Yes, I had a lot of good friends in the team and I am playing for them, too.

WS: *Can you concentrate on both the African Nations' Cup and World Cup qualifiers at the same time when the matches are so close?*
JB: I have played in both tournaments for a long time now and you get used to it. It's a question of experience.

WS: *How does Zambia's progress affect your career in Switzerland?*
JB: Not at all. When I play for the national team and then go back to Switzerland, I seem to perform very well. Everyone is happy with me. I scored a lot of goals last season. Some even asked me what I ate when I was back in Zambia and I joked that it was lion. I am motivated when I play for Zambia.

WS: *What do you think of plans to play African international matches in midweek, as in Europe?*
JB: It's a very good idea. I've had problems with my club because they don't always want me to go on international duty. The FA of Zambia wanted me to stay for a month to train with the team but it conflicted with the start of the season in Switzerland. They need me in Zambia, and in Switzerland too. To play midweek would solve the problem.

WS: *The travelling must be difficult.*
JB: It isn't easy. I feel very tired. Last year I had a lot of problems flying up and down. But I have to adapt.

WS: *Every young African player seems to aspire to a career in Europe. Is it all that glamorous?*
JB: European clubs pay very well and are well organised. It's the highest level and that is the best level to play at. In Africa, the management of soccer is poor. I would encourage youngsters to strive to play for a club in Europe.

WS: *What ambitions do you have now?*
JB: To play in the World Cup, to play in the African Nations' Cup finals, and to be a champion with my team in Switzerland!

ZAMBIA'S NEW SQUAD

Player	Club	Birth
Goalkeepers		
Shadrack Biemba	Amazulu (SA)	04.01.65
Evans Kakoma	Profound Warriors	28.08.70
James Phiri	Zanaco	13.02.68
Defenders		
Luka Chifumpe	Profound Warriors	01.04.70
Hector Chilombo	Profound Warriors	19.11.69
Aggrey Chiyangi	Power Dynamos	05.06.64
Harrison Chongo	Mufulira Wanderers	05.06.69
Elijah Litana	Power Dynamos	05.12.70
Mordon Malitoli	Nkana FC	05.08.64
Evans Sakala	Dynamos (SA)	10.10.72
Midfielders		
Joel Bwalya	RC Harelbeke (Bel)	24.10.72
John Lungu	Roan United	26.01.66
Linos Makwaza	Power Dynamos	04.01.65
Emmanuel Munaile	Dynamos (SA)	23.11.63
Douglas Mwamba	Odense (Den)	14.05.74
Forwards		
Johnson Bwalya	FC Bulle (Swi)	03.12.67
Kalusha Bwalya	PSV Eindhoven (Hol)	16.08.63
Gibby Mbasela	Union Berlin (Ger)	24.10.66
Wedson Nyirenda	Power Dynamos	23.11.66
Ackson Shimbala	Nchanga Rangers	06.01.69

Coach: Freddie Mwila (06.07.46)

AFRICAN TABLES

MOZAMBIQUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Matchedje	12	10	1	1	26	7	21
Costa do Sol	12	9	2	1	22	8	20
Deportivo Maputo	12	8	2	2	31	9	18
Ferroviario de Maputo	12	8	2	2	30	10	18
Maxaquene	12	5	5	2	20	6	15
Clube de Gaza	12	5	5	2	14	10	15
Aquia Douro	12	4	2	6	11	17	10
Ferroviario de Gaza	12	4	1	7	13	11	9
Conseng	12	3	3	6	11	13	9
Desp. de Xai-Xai	12	2	1	9	8	36	5
Ferro. de Inhambane	12	1	1	10	4	33	3
Cometal/Momental	12	0	1	11	2	35	1

SENEGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeanne d'Arc	18	10	4	4	18	7	24
Port Autonome	18	8	8	2	14	5	24
ASC Ndiambour	18	8	8	2	12	6	24
ASC Douanes	18	7	9	2	17	8	23
Linguere	18	8	6	4	11	5	22
SOTRAC	18	7	5	6	17	13	19
Diaraf Dakar	18	5	9	4	17	13	19
Rail	18	6	7	5	12	9	19
Casa	18	4	11	3	8	7	19
Mbour	18	3	11	4	8	8	17
Dial Diop	18	3	9	6	8	13	15
Mbosse	18	3	9	6	6	16	15
Etics	18	1	12	5	9	13	14
Ouakam	18	2	9	7	10	15	13
Goree	18	2	8	8	5	17	12
Damels	18	1	7	10	5	21	9

UGANDA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kampala CC	17	12	4	1	33	4	28
Express FC	17	10	6	1	37	13	26
Nakivubo Villa	15	9	5	1	21	6	23
Coffee FC	17	8	6	3	21	11	22
Arua	18	9	4	5	19	20	22
Dairy	17	5	10	2	22	14	20
Nile	16	8	3	5	22	12	19
Dell	19	5	8	6	24	23	18
USD	17	5	6	6	16	16	16
UCB	16	5	5	6	17	17	15
Nsambya	16	4	6	6	16	17	14
Miracle	17	4	2	11	12	28	10
Wandegeya	17	2	5	10	14	47	9
Busia	17	3	1	13	9	29	7
Airlines	16	1	1	14	9	35	3

ZAMBIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roan United	15	10	3	2	30	13	33
Nkana FC	14	9	5	0	34	13	32
Power Dynamos	14	8	3	3	20	14	27
Zamzure FC	15	6	4	5	12	14	22
Kabwe Warriors	15	5	6	4	22	15	21
Mufulira Wand.	15	5	6	4	22	15	21
Nchanga Rangers	14	5	4	5	19	22	19
Profuond Warriors	14	5	3	6	15	12	18
Konkola Blades	15	4	6	5	22	25	18
Zanaco FC	15	5	3	7	13	16	18
Ndola United	15	4	5	6	16	24	17
Kalulushi MS	14	3	6	5	18	21	15
Chambishi	14	2	7	5	12	15	13
Forest Rangers	14	2	6	6	11	18	12
LCC	14	3	3	8	14	28	12
Express	14	4	0	10	10	26	12

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AUP

12 SATURDAY, JUNE

ACTION: China, trying to make up for lost time and matches, beat Pakistan 3-0 in Chengdu in an Asian group A World Cup qualifier. Iraq remain top of the group, however, with a game in hand. Yemen miss a chance to go joint top when they draw 1-1 with Jordan . . . Milan open their world tour with a 3-2 win over Orlando Pirates in Johannesburg . . . Velez Sarsfield win the Argentine championship . . . Palmeiras beat Corinthians 4-0 after extra time, in a match where four players are sent off, to win the Rio state championship title play-off . . . three Nantes players are sent off in a 3-0 French Cup final defeat by Paris Saint-Germain . . . Bayer Leverkusen beat the amateurs of Hertha Berlin just 1-0 to win the German Cup Final with a 77th-minute goal from Ulf Kirsten . . . Torino beat Roma 3-0 in the first leg of the Italian Cup Final; Udinese beat Brescia 3-1 in a Serie A relegation play-off in Bologna . . . Real Madrid ensure that they keep their noses ahead in Spain by defeating neighbours Atletico 1-0 with a goal from Hierro.

ARGENTINA: National manager Alfio Basile names his squad for the Copa America defence without Diego Maradona but with seven other foreign-based players, including Tenerife midfielder Fernando Redondo . . . Velez Sarsfield are crowned champions despite being held 0-0 at home on the last day of the season by Independiente.

ITALY: Police use tear gas to disperse angry fans of Perugia after it is reported that the club's promotion back to the Italian Second Division may be denied because of match-fixing allegations

UNITED STATES: Juventus sweeper Julio Cesar quits the Brazil squad at the US Cup '93 after £30,000 and four valuable watches are stolen from his hotel room during the game against Germany. Other Brazilian and German players also report thefts from their hotel rooms during the game — not a good advert for US-style security one year ahead of the World Cup finals.

13 SUNDAY, JUNE

ACTION: South Korea qualify for the final qualifying round in the Asian World Cup section, when they beat Bahrain 4-0 in Seoul; India finish bottom of group D despite beating Hong Kong 3-1 in their last match — India's first win . . . in the US Cup '93, the United States lose an entertaining match 4-3 to Germany in Chicago while England regain a measure of respect by holding Brazil 1-1 in Washington (which will, US officials confirm, host this year's Italian Supercup on August 21) . . . Fluminense beat Vasco 2-1 to force a third match in the Carioca championship play-off final . . . promotion from the Italian Serie B is confirmed on the last day of the season for Reggiana, Cremonese, Piacenza and Lecce . . . Moscow Torpedo beat CSKA Moscow 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the Russian Cup Final . . . Barcelona ensure the Spanish championship will again go to the last day after winning 1-0 away to Osasuna to stay one point behind Real Madrid but with a superior goal difference.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich deny having already completed a deal with Milan's Ruud Gullit.

ITALY: Police reinforcements are called to Perugia on a second day of rioting over the threat that match-fixing allegations may stall the local club's promotion to Serie B.

14 MONDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Iraq stay top of the World Cup Asian group A by defeating Jordan 4-0; Yemen remain a point behind after beating Pakistan 3-0.

BELGIUM: Belgium and Holland consider a joint bid to host the 2000 European Championship finals.

ENGLAND: Terry Venables loses his High Court fight to force Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar to rescind his dismissal as chief executive.

GERMANY: Leverkusen defender Christian Worns is summoned to join the national squad in the US because of injury to Jurgen Kohler.

JAPAN: Struggling Urawa Red Diamonds dismiss players Victor Hugo Ferreyra and Marcelo Morales in the wake of a disastrous start to the J.League season.

UNITED STATES: Bora Milutinovic omits his European-based players from the US' Copa America squad because of their tiring European seasons . . . Brazil manager Carlos Alberto Parreira attacks plans to play World Cup finals matches in high levels of daytime heat and humidity next year.

15 TUESDAY, JUNE

ACTION: In the opening match of the Copa America, hosts Ecuador thrash Venezuela 6-1 . . . Finland beat Israel 1-0 in the European Under-21 championship.

FRANCE: Jean Tigana is appointed technical director of Lyon in succession to Raymond Domenech.

GERMANY: World Cup midfielder Uwe Bein is reported as about to visit Japan to discuss final details of a transfer to Gamba Osaka.

ITALY: Corrado Ferlaino formally resigns as president of Napoli after 24 years — three weeks after being implicated in the tangentopoli scandal . . . Frank Rijkaard is poised to leave Milan to return to his original club, Ajax . . . Ruud Gullit says he will announce his decision on transferring to Bayern Munich within four or five days.

Terry Venables . . . lost his court appeal.

poised to replace Vujadin Boskov as Roma boss after the weekend's Cup Final return against Torino . . . the FIGC launches a formal inquiry into claims of match-fixing on behalf of Serie C promotion club Perugia.

ROMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest lose 2-1 away to Craiova so Steaua, despite being held 1-1 by Rapid Bucharest, are assured of the championship with one game remaining.

SPAIN: Real Madrid win 2-1 away to Barcelona and 3-2 on aggregate in the Cup semi-final return . . . Sevilla general manager Manuel Vizcaino denies reports that the board is seeking to reach agreement on the immediate termination of Diego Maradona's contract.

SWEDEN: Degerfors beat Landskrona 3-0 in the Cup Final.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA gives Welsh clubs which operate in the English Football League two further years in which to decide their competitive future: if they stay with the English Leaue they will then forfeit the right to enter the Cup-winners' Cup through the Welsh Cup; UEFA maintains its ban on club competition participation by teams from the rump Yugoslavia; UEFA delays until 1998-99 the power to order that high-risk matches be played only in all-seater stadia.

16 WEDNESDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Uruguay open their Copa America campaign by defeating the United States 1-0 (above); Colombia beat Mexico 2-1 . . . in the World Cup, Czehoslovakia win 3-0 away to the Faroe Islands; the Irish Republic win 1-0 away to Lithuania; Iceland beat a further-humiliated Hungary by 2-0; Finland are held 0-0 by Israel . . . in the World Cup's Asian section, Iraq stay top of group A by defeating Yemen 3-0 while pursuers China beat Jordan 4-1 . . . Australia lose 1-0 to Milan in Sydney.

BELGIUM: Marco Van Basten has the plaster cast and stiches removed from his damaged ankle by surgeon Marc Martens, who says he is reasonably satisfied with the operation's outcome.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: American entrepreneur Boris Korbel threatens to pull the financial rug out from under Slavia, by warning that he is ready to quit in a dispute with club vice-president Ladislav Komarek.

ENGLAND: The FA sets up an inquiry into the allegations about transfer misdealing which emerged during the Sugar v Venables High Court fight for control of Tottenham.

ITALY: Carlo Mazzone, ousted at Cagliari at the season's end, is

17 THURSDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Argentina open their Copa America defence with a 1-0 defeat of Bolivia . . . Australia lose 2-0 to Milan in the second match of the Italian champions' tour down-under.

MALTA: National coach Pippo Psaila steps into controversy with a claim that Portuguese sources have approached his players about helping Portugal run up a high score in Sunday's World Cup tie.

SPAIN: Zaragoza reach the Cup Final by defeating Valencia 3-2 (aggregate 4-3) in the second leg of their semi-final.

18 FRIDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Paraguay beat Chile 1-0 in the Copa America but Brazil are held goalless by Peru . . . Iraq qualify for the final preliminary round in the Asian World Cup section after defeating Pakistan 4-0; China beat Yemen 1-0 . . . Portugal thrash Malta 7-0 in the European Under-21 championship.

ENGLAND: David O'Leary, veteran Irish Republic defender released by Arsenal, signs a three-year contract with Leeds.

FRANCE: Marseille spring a surprise by appointing long-time French federation coaching aide Marc Bourrier as new boss in succession to the retired Raymond Goethals.

HOLLAND: Ajax agree another sale to Italy, this time Marciano Vink to Genoa.

19 SATURDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Ecuador win again in "their" Copa America, beating the United States 2-0 in Quito; in Ambato, also in Group A, Uruguay are surprisingly held 2-2 by Venezuela . . . Portugal regain third place in World Cup European group one by defeating Malta 4-0 . . . Germany win the US Cup '93 by defeating England 2-1 indoors in the Pontiac Silverdome near Detroit.

AUSTRIA: Wacker Innsbruck beat Rapid 3-1 in the Cup Final.

ENGLAND: Tottenham appoint Osvaldo Ardiles as new manager and are immediately accused of poachng by his previous club, West Bromwich.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich sell unsettled defender Thomas Berthold to Koln but are turned down by Milan's Ruud Gullit.

ITALY: Torino win the Cup Final, losing 5-2 in the second leg to Roma, but squeaked through on the away goals rule with 5-5 aggregate.

20 SUNDAY, JUNE

ACTION: China beat Iraq 2-1 in the last match in their World Cup Asian qualifying group but victory comes too late to prevent Iraq reaching the next stage; Jordan beat Pakistan 5-0 . . . Argentina are held 1-1 by Mexico in the Copa America; Colombia draw 1-1 with Bolivia . . . Apollon lose 4-1 to APOEL in the Cypriot Cup Final . . . Kispest-Honved clinch the Hungarian league title by winning 5-1 away to Disogyor . . . Legia Warsaw win the Polish league title on goal difference from LKS Lodz after both clubs' opponents — Wisla Krakow and Olimpia Poznan — collapse suspiciously to respective defeats by 6-0 and 7-1 . . . Barcelona snatch the Spanish league title away from Real Madrid on the last day of the season for the second successive year; again Madrid lose decisively at Tenerife, this time by 2-0 while Barcelona beat Real Sociedad 1-0 in Nou Camp . . . Kiev Dynamo win the Ukraine championship on the last day.

21 MONDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Brazil fall to bottom of Group B in the Copa America after losing 3-1 to Chile; Paraguay draw 1-1 with Peru.

ENGLAND: Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is surprised, on returning from holiday, to be told that goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel underwent a knee cartilage operation at home in Denmark the previous Friday.

GERMANY: Nurnberg buy Switzerland forward Alain Sutter from Grasshopper of Zurich.

POLAND: Legia Warsaw, Wisla Krakow, LKS Lodz and Olimpia Poznan are each fined £18,000 by the federation for "unsporting behaviour" in the decisive two title-deciding matches of the league championship. The federation says no further action will be taken — decisions which are greeted with howls of derision from media and supporters. A federation spokesman says that it is likely a new rule will be invoked to order a play-off should two teams finish level on points at the top in future.

HOLLAND: Marco Van Basten, on crutches, marries long-time companion Liesbeth in a civil ceremony near Utrecht. Daughters Jessica and Angela attend the ceremony from which the couple make their getaway in a white Rolls-Royce.

22 TUESDAY, JUNE

ACTION: The United States are credited with a phantom goal, take a 3-0 lead but are still hauled back to 3-3 and eliminated by Venezuela from the Copa America; Ecuador top Group A by defeating Uruguay 2-1 though both teams reach the quarter-finals.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven appoint Aad de Mos (ex Mechelen and Anderlecht) as new coach in place of Hans Westerhof.

ITALY: Cagliari, despite having secured a UEFA Cup place, agree terms to sell Uruguayan World Cup veteran Enzo Francescoli to Torino.

MALTA: Pippo Psaila quits as national manager, blaming "differences with the MFA over responsibilities" for his decision.

PORTUGAL: Sporting infuriate Benfica by persuading their neighbours' international midfielder Antonio Pacheco to break a contract which had two more years to run. Pacheco says he was entitled to switch clubs because Benfica were in arrears paying his salary. Benfica threaten to go to court.

SPAIN: Sevilla announce that Diego Maradona's contract will be severed without being paid in full because he "had not met the obligations to the club expected of a responsible employee." Club officials say that, if the matter should go to court, they are prepared to produce a 100-page dossier compiled by a private detective on Maradona's private life.

UNITED STATES: Antonio Matarrese, president of the Italian federation and UEFA vice-president, says in New York that, while the World Cup '94 organisation and administration promises to be high-class, he doubts whether the American public have grasped "the dramatic spirit" of the game.

23 WEDNESDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Defending champions Argentina draw 1-1 with Colombia in the Copa America; Mexico and Bolivia draw 0-0 . . . Syria beat Taiwan 2-0 and Iran draw 0-0 with Oman as Asian group B of the World Cup qualifiers opens in Tehran.

COLOMBIA: The national squad, playing at the Copa America in Ecuador, send a message of support to goalkeeper Rene Higuita, held in prison on charges of negotiating a hostage release.

FRANCE: Former France midfielder Philippe Vercruysse leaves Nimes to return to Bordeaux, one of his previous clubs.

ITALY: Retired General Ciro Di Martino is appointed as new figurehead president of Roma by the industrialists who have bought controlling interest from disgraced Giuseppe Ciarrapico.

POLAND: GKS Katowice beat Ruch Chorzow 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the Cup final.

ROMANIA: Anghel Iordanescu is appointed new national manager on a two-year contract in succession to sacked Cornel Dinu.

SPAIN: Sevilla bid to open negotiations with Argentina manager Alfio Basile, who is wanted as boss for next season. Sevilla officials say he would be released to manage Argentina at the 1994 World Cup finals.

SPAIN: Mallorca lose 3-1 at home to Albacete and Espanol lose 1-0 at home to Santander in the first legs of the relegation/promotion play-offs.

24 THURSDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Peru beat Chile 1-0 and Brazil beat Paraguay 3-0 in the last group matches of the Copa America.

ECUADOR: Argentina manager Alfio Basile, at the Copa America, says he has received offers from both Valencia and Sevilla of Spain but will probably stay with his country if they qualify later this summer for the World Cup finals.

FRANCE: Police arrest Valenciennes player Christophe Robert and his wife in their investigations into match-fixing allegations concerning the May 20 league defeat by Marseille.

ITALY: Ronny Rosenthal's breach of contract case against Udinese, in which he is claiming £400,000 over the collapse of his 1989 transfer, is adjourned until January.

GREECE: OFI Crete sell Cyprus midfielder Nikki Papavasiliou (above right) to Newcastle United of England.

POLAND: Wisla Krakow suspend all the players who figured in the controversial 6-1 weekend defeat by which Legia Warsaw secured the league championship.

PORTUGAL: Champions FC Porto give Atletico Madrid permission to discuss an offer to coach Carlos Alberto da Silva, former manager of Brazil . . . more financially-induced problems at Benfica with midfielder Paulo Sousa formally applying for cancellation of his contract after his pay cheque bounces; he, like team-mate Antonio Pacheco, is linked with a transfer to neighbours Sporting.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona quits Sevilla, flying home to Argentina and telling reporters he has quit playing — that, as far as the World Cup qualifiers are concerned, he will "watch the games on television."

YUGOSLAVIA: Branko Bulatovic, secretary of the Yugoslav federation, estimates that United Nations economic sanctions, incorporating the international suspension imposed by FIFA and UEFA, has cost the Yugoslav game £13million.

25 FRIDAY, JUNE

ACTION: In the World Cup Asian group B, hosts Iran thrash Taiwan 6-0 in Tehran in front of 80,000 while, in a double-header, Oman draw 0-0 with Syria.

BELGIUM: A Brussels court clears Waregem player Yvan Desloover of involuntary wounding in a retrial of a case originally brought after a tackle, in a league match in 1987, in which Juan Lozano, the then Anderlecht and former Real Madrid player, suffered a broken leg which effectively ended his career.

ENGLAND: The FA decides, formally, to launch an inquiry into allegations of payments made to agents and managers in transfer dealings.

FRANCE: The VA-Marseille affaire gathers pace and intensity as Marseille's Jean-Jacques Eydelie surrenders himself voluntarily to an investigating court in Valenciennes. League president Noel Le Graet warns that if a Marseille official should ultimately be found guilty of corruption then the club would be banned from entry into next season's Champions' Cup . . . Marseille's veteran full-back, Manuel Amoros, joins Lyon.

ITALY: Roma complete the £7million purchase of Argentine striker Abel Balbo from Udinese.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA's disciplinary committee hands out a series of penalties and punishments: 1, the Chorzow stadium is suspended from international football indefinitely because of crowd trouble at the Poland v England World Cup-tie while the Polish federation is fined £8,000; 2, Honduras are threatened with suspension from the 1998 World Cup and the federation fined £12,000 for crowd trouble at the ties against Canada and Mexico; 3, Spanish club Merida are fined £4,000 for non-payment of a transfer fee for Partizan Belgrade's Goran Milojevic and warned that compliance of the Spanish federation will be sought in enforcing relegation if the money, one-tenth of the agreed transfer sum, is not paid within 20 days; 4, River Plate of Argentina are fined £20,000 for the violent conduct of three of their players at an international

tournament earlier in the year and £3,000 fines and two-year suspensions from all football are imposed on each of the three players, Matias Bisca, Jose Nicolas Latorre and Cesar Zinelli.

26 SATURDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Ecuador reach "their" Copa America semi-finals, beating Paraguay 3-0; Colombia beat Uruguay 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

FRANCE: Police investigating the Valenciennes-Marseille match fix case charge VA player, Christophe Robert and his wife, Marie-Christine, with corruption. An attempt to bring Marseille secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes before an investigating judge is foiled when Bernes is admitted to hospital suffering from an "undisclosed ailment."

ROMANIA: Universitatea Craiova beat Dacia Unirea Braila 2-0 in the Cup final.

SPAIN: Real Madrid win their first domestic trophy in three years by defeating Zaragoza 2-0 in the Cup final. Butragueno and Lasa score the goals.

27 SUNDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Argentina win the Battle of the Giants in the Copa America, beating Brazil 6-5 on penalties after a 1-1 draw, thanks to a typical decisive penalty shoot-out save by Goycochea from Boiadeiro; in the other quarter-final, Mexico beat Peru 4-2 . . . in the Asian World Cup qualifiers, Oman beat Taiwan 2-1 and Iran draw 1-1 with Syria.

ENGLAND: Tina Moore, former wife of the late England World Cup-winning captain, reveals that Bobby Moore underwent radium therapy to cure a cancer two years before the 1966 World Cup win.

FRANCE: Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie is formally placed under investigation in the Marseille match-fix affair.

28 MONDAY, JUNE

FRANCE: Players of Lyon-Duchere stage a sit-in at the headquarters of the federation in protest against the decision to refuse the club professional status and thus a promotion-earned place in the Second Division . . . Marseille sign Auxerre's William Prunier and Daniel Dutuel as well as Sochaux midfielder Fabrice Henry . . . federation officials say there is no immediate threat to Marseille's status and defence of their European and domestic titles because of the match-fix allegations. Spokesmen say it would be impossible for any judicial process to be completed before the new season.

POLAND: Three Wisla Krakow fans are arrested and charged with the murder of a Pogon Szczecin supporter in a tram in Chorzow hours before the World Cup qualifier against England.

29 TUESDAY, JUNE

ENGLAND: Referees threaten they may strike if Premier and Football League officials do not come up with improved match payments.

JAPAN: Napoli's Brazilian veteran, Careca, agrees a six-month contract with Kashiwa Reysol.

NORWAY: Tore Pedersen and Erik Mykland consider an offer of trials with Birmingham.

ZAMBIA: Ian Porterfield, former Chelsea manager, flies in to help advise national team officials in the World Cup qualifiers. His presence is being funded by the British Foreign Office and British companies.

30 WEDNESDAY, JUNE

ACTION: Mexico beat hosts Ecuador 2-0 to reach the final of the Copa America.

BRAZIL: Manager Carlo Alberto Parreira names a full-strength squad, with 14 foreign-based players, for the forthcoming World Cup qualifiers.

FRANCE: Speculation is raised that Marseille may be stripped of the European Champions' Cup after reports of claims by CSKA Moscow coach, Gennadi Kostilev, that his players were offered money by Marseille to throw the Champions League tie the French champions ultimately won 6-0. UEFA says that its disciplinary committee will investigate the CSKA claims and that it has asked the French federation to keep it abreast of developments in the match-fixing inquiry . . . Marseille buy Paulo Futre from Benfica.

PORTUGAL: Benfica solve their cash crisis by selling Paulo Futre to Marseille only five months after buying him, amid enormous controversy, from Atletico Madrid. With cash in hand, Benfica persuade Joao Pinto to stay — unlike midfielders Paulo Sousa and Antonio Pacheco, who both confirm their signing for Sporting Lisbon.

SPAIN: The season finally ends with the second legs of the relegation/promotion play-offs. Albacete stay up but Espanol go down. Their place is taken by Santander.

PLAYER of the MONTH

Jacques Glassman

of French club Valenciennes, for having the guts to spill the beans about the bribe offered to throw the league match against Marseille — even if nobody believed him at first.

1 THURSDAY, JULY

ACTION: Argentina beat Colombia this time by 6-5 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the other Copa America semi-final.

FRANCE: Police attend Marseille's Font-Romeu training centre and question 12 players who were members of the squad for the match against Valenciennes. Four players — Desailly, Di Meco, Deschamps and Ferreri — are detained longer than their team-mates. Valenciennes' Argentine midfielder, Jorge Burruchaga, is charged with passive corruption (this follows earlier charges laid against team-mate Christophe Robert, Marie-Christine Robert and Marseille's Jean-Jacques Eydelie). The newspaper *Le Monde* reports that the envelope from which the disputed 250,000 francs was recovered is considered by police as identical to envelopes in the office of Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes. Public prosecutor Eric de Montgolfier says: "The screw is tightening."

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven's temperamental Brazilian striker, Romario, is reported poised to join Barcelona for £2million.

ITALY: More than 60 years of soccer history ends as Italian federation officials sell a regular weekly league match to *Tele+2* pay-TV channel. The match will be played on Sunday evenings, thus ending the simultaneous kick-off tradition. A Serie B match will be moved forward for *Tele+2* to Saturday night. The other league and Cup coverage is sold once again to *RAI* for £55million for the new season.

ROMANIA: Federation president Mircea Sandu denies claims that one of their players had offered a bribe to New South Wales striker Zlatko Arambasic during the President's Cup in South Korea. Romania won the match 2-1 to reach the semi-finals.

RUSSIA: CSKA Moscow send a fax to UEFA withdrawing allegations that their food had been tampered with and that their players had been offered cash bribes by Marseille. Coach Gennadi Kostilev is among the signatories of the fax.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid engage the Brazilian, Jair Pereira, as new coach. Ramon Heredia, end-of-season caretaker, will stay as his assistant.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA reports that the Pontiac indoor pitch passed its US Cup '93 test and has been given the all-clear for the World Cup finals.

UNITED STATES: Boston police will travel to England in the autumn to study hooligan control measures . . . brass retrieved from the renovation of the Statue of Liberty in 1986 will be used in the minting of the 70,000 World Cup medallions which will sell for $45 each.

2 FRIDAY, JULY

ACTION: In the World Cup Asian group B, hosts Syria thrash Taiwan 8-1 in Damascus while Iran beat Oman 1-0.

FRANCE: Nantes defender Christian Karembeu is banned for six months for manhandling referee Remi Harrel during the Cup final defeat by Paris Saint-Germain.

ITALY: Cagliari buy Panamanian striker Julio Dely Valdes from Nacional of Uruguay . . . Parma sell Brazilian goalkeeper Taffarel to promoted Reggiana . . . stadium bans for hooligan trouble are imposed on Milan (two matches) and Sampdoria (one match).

WHAT'S ON

AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15
World Cup qualifiers, South America Group A: Colombia v Argentina, Paraguay v Peru. **Group B:** Bolivia v Ecuador, Uruguay v Brazil. **CONCACAF/ Oceania play-off, 2nd leg:** Australia v Canada (Sydney).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
Italian Supercup: Milan v Torino (RFK Stadium, Washington DC).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 6: Sweden v France. **South America Group A:** Argentina v Peru, Paraguay v Colombia. **Group B:** Bolivia v Venezuela, Brazil v Ecuador.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 3: Denmark v Lithuania. **Group 6:** Austria v Finland.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29
World Cup qualifiers, South America Group A: Argentina v Paraguay, Colombia v Peru. **Group B:** Brazil v Bolivia, Uruguay v Venezuela.

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 1: Estonia v Portugal. **South America Group A:** Argentina v Colombia, Peru v Paraguay. **Group B:** Brazil v Venezuela, Uruguay v Ecuador.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 1: Scotland v Switzerland. **Group 2:** England v Poland. **Group 3:** Albania v Denmark, Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania, Northern Ireland v Latvia. **Group 4:** Wales v Czechoslovakia, Faroe Islands v Romania. **Group 5:** Hungary v Russia, Iceland v Luxembourg. **Group 6:** Finland v France, Bulgaria v Sweden.

All-American boys . . . US coach Bora Milutinovic (centre) with John Harkes (left) and Roy Wegerle (right).

SATURDAY, JULY 3

ACTION: Colombia beat hosts Ecuador 1-0 in the Copa America's third place play-off . . . Nigeria beat Algeria 4-1 in Lagos in a World Cup African second round group A qualifier.

FRANCE: Marseille general-secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes is formally placed under investigation in the Valenciennes corruption case, meaning he is likely to face charges in connection with bribery allegations.

JAPAN: Kashima Antlers beat Yokohama Marinos 3-1 to ensure that, with one game to go, they will be halfway leaders of the J.League.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

ACTION: Argentina beat Mexico 2-1 in the Final of the Copa America . . . in the World Cup African qualifiers, the rebuilt Zambians score a hugely-popular 2-1 victory over Morocco while Zimbabwe defeat Cameroon 1-0 . . . in the World Cup's Asian zone, Iran move within one point of a second round place by defeating Taiwan 6-0; Syria defeat Oman 2-1. Iran and Syria, who will meet in the last game, are level on points but Iran have a better goal difference . . . Norway beat Italy 1-0 in the final of the European Women's Championship.

MONDAY, JULY 5

FRANCE: Marseille's Croat striker Alen Boksic agrees to join Lazio though the French champions have the option of deciding whether to sell him now or next year.

MEXICO: An estimated 75,000 fans turn out in Mexico City to celebrate the return home of the national team after its runners-up success in the Copa America.

SCOTLAND: Former Yugoslav full-back Ivan Golac is appointed manager of Dundee United.

SPAIN: Luis Aragones, dismissed in midseason by Atletico Madrid, is appointed new coach of Sevilla in succession to Carlos Bilardo.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA decides to admit teams from Croatia, Byelorussia and Moldavia to the Champions' Cup next season and to readmit Albania. However entries from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are rejected because of poor communications and/or domestic civil unrest . . . FIFA reports that only Spain had applied to host the 1996 World Indoor Cup by the weekend deadline.

TUESDAY, JULY 6

ACTION: Iran qualify for the second round of the World Cup Asian qualifiers after drawing 1-1 with hosts Syria in Damascus; Taiwan finish bottom of group B after losing 7-1 to Oman.

AUSTRIA: Rapid Vienna fail to land Croatian national coach Vlatko Markovic after the Croat federation refuse to release him from his contract.

ENGLAND: Leeds jump the transfer gun by claiming to have bought Sheffield United's England striker Brian Deane for £3.2million . . . Swindon buy Jan Fjortoft from Rapid Vienna.

FRANCE: Marseille secretary-general Jean-Pierre Bernes is formally charged with active corruption in the Valenciennes match-fixing case.

ITALY: David Platt says he intends staying in Italy, whether that means staying with Juventus or not.

MALTA: Italian Pietro Ghedin is appointed new national manager in succession to Pippo Psaila.

UNITED STATES: National coach Bora Milutinovic says four European-based players will be in his squad for the CONCACAF Gold Cup — Dooley, Harkes, Ramos and Wegerle.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona is asked by Prospero Consoli, president of his original club, Argentinos Juniors, if he will wind down his career where it began rather than retiring.

BRAZIL: Carlos Alberto Parreira drops Carlos Mozer of Benfica from the World Cup squad because the defender failed to turn up on Monday for preparatory training. Mozer is reported to be tied up with a lawsuit against a local newspaper which reported, wrongly, that he was suffering from AIDS.

FRANCE: League president Noel Le Graet says that Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruchaga, of Valenciennes, are unlikely to find another club in the country because of their role in the alleged match-fix game against Marseille. Reports emerge that Marseille president Bernard Tapie was questioned by the investigating judge on Tuesday — and that Boro Primorac, Valenciennes coach for the scandal match, claimed to have been offered "hush" money in the presence of Tapie.

ITALY: Gabriel Batistuta agrees, despite his Copa America exploits, to stay with Fiorentina in Serie. B. However Germany's Stefan Effenberg threatens to go on strike unless he is sold or loaned to a Serie A club — just as Brian Laudrup is apparently bound on loan to Milan.

JAPAN: Kashima Antlers beat bottom club Urawa Red Diamonds to end the first half of the J.League with a six-point lead over second-placed Yokohama Marinos.

PORTUGAL: Benfica call off the proposed sale of Sergei Yuran to Newcastle.

ROMANIA: Emerich Jenei is reappointed coach to champions Steaua in succession to new national boss Anghel Iordanescu.

RUSSIA: The federation consider expelling Lokomotiv Moscow after reports that officials of the club's sponsors threatened the referee at half-time during Tuesday's league match against Moscow Dynamo.

UNITED STATES: The US agree to play Germany in Palo Alto, California, on December 18, one day before the World Cup finals draw in Las Vegas.

THURSDAY, JULY 8

BRAZIL: Marcio Santos of Bordeaux is called up as World Cup squad replacement for Benfica's reluctant Carlos Mozer.

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie blames the revelations concerning the Valenciennes scandal match as politically-motivated and targeted on him.

ITALY: Milan agree the loan of Evani to Sampdoria.

JAPAN: Zico flies home to Brazil for further treatment on the thigh injury which has allowed him to play only three J.League matches so far out of 16 with Kashima.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

ARGENTINA: Italy-based Abel Balbo is recalled to the national squad for the World Cup qualifiers.

FRANCE: Abedi Pele, out of the blue, signs for Lyon. He had even expected to leave Marseille only if serious evidence was presented against Marseille.

ITALY: The senior disciplinary tribunal decides that Perugia, as punishment for match-fixing, should stay in Serie C instead of moving up, as promotion would have allowed, into Serie B . . . a Bologna court sentences three building supervisors to six months in prison suspended for carelessness which led to the death of stadium worker Luigi Volpato in 1988.

SWEDEN: Police are odered to pay £4,000 to 12 fans wrongly arrested during the European Championship finals last year.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

ACTION: The United States beat Jamaica 1-0 in Dallas in the opening match of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. Honduras beat Panama 5-1.

UNITED STATES: Milutin Soskoc, former Yugoslavia and Partizan Belgrade international, is appointed goalkeeper coach to the US national team.

OBITUARY

ERICH DEUSER, physio to the West German national team between 1951 and 1982, has died aged 82. Deuser played for Fortuna Dusseldorf in the 1930s and was later "discovered" as masseur by legendary manager Sepp Herberger.

ALOJZ RENIC, favourite former player and coach of one-time Yugoslav First Division side Celik Zenjcar, has died in the fighting in Bosnia, aged 51. Renic's playing career also encompassed spells with Dinamo Zagreb. He is the sixth noted footballer killed in the fighting.

ELEMER BERKESSY, centre-half star of the late 1920s and 1930s with Ferencvaros and then Barcelona, has died in the Catalan capital aged 88. Berkessy's playing career was cut short by the Spanish Civil War. Later he was coach to Espanol of Barcelona.

TEAM of the MONTH

Argentina...

for repeating their 1959 feat of retaining the Copa America.

11 SUNDAY, JULY

ACTION: Mexico thrash Martinique 9-0 in their opening match in the CONCACAF Gold Cup in Mexico City. Zague scores seven, equalling the post-war international record set by Gary Cole for Australia against Fiji in 1981. In the other group match, Canada draw 1-1 with Costa Rica . . . Italy beat Austria 2-0 in the final of the Pele Veterans World Cup with strikes from Josef Sara (own goal) and Franco Causio (penalty).

12 MONDAY, JULY

BRAZIL: Another defensive blow for Brazil as Ricardo Gomes is injured in training and ruled out of Wednesday's World Cup warm-up friendly against Paraguay.

FRANCE: Marseille sink further into trouble as Jean-Jacques Eydelie, in a five-hour examination, says that his attempt to bribe three Valenciennes players was made at the behest of Marseille general manager Pierre Bernes.

GERMANY: Dynamo Dresden take Russia goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov on trial . . . Borussia Dortmund clinch the purchase of Germany striker Karlheinz Riedle from Lazio for £5million, a record fee paid by a German club (the previous highest was the £3.5million Dortmund paid to bring Matthias Sammer back from Internazionale at the start of the year).

POLAND: Lech Poznan are installed as new champions when the federation, following up its earlier inquiry into the last-round match-fixing scandal, deducts two points each from Legia Warsaw and LKS Lodz.

13 TUESDAY, JULY

ITALY: Sampdoria say they have clinched the signing of Ruud Gullit from Milan and are making progress in talks regarding Juventus' David Platt.

SWITZERLAND: On the eve of the first round draw for the European club cups, French league president Noel Le Graet warns that Marseille may have to be withdrawn because of ever-deepening scandal. UEFA insist that Marseille will stay in the Champions' Cup draw provisionally while offering the French federation up until September 1 to name a replacement (that would be conditional on Marseille being stripped of the French league title).

14 WEDNESDAY, JULY

ACTION: Brazil beat Paraguay 2-0 with two goals in the last eight minutes of a World Cup warm-up friendly.

FRANCE: President Mitterrand urges judiciary and media to show "greater prudence" over the Marseille scandal to ensure that any person (i.e. Bernard Tapie) not under investigation is treated as innocent.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich sign Colombia forward Adolfo Valencia, whose move to Benfica fell through after the Portuguese club hit cash problems.

ITALY: Sampdoria buy England's David Platt from Juventus for £5.2million, taking his career transfer fee total to £17.4million, a world record.

JAPAN: Kashima Antlers win the first phase of the J.League despite losing their last match 2-1 at home to Shimizu S Pulse.

POLAND: Arson is suspected after a fire breaks out at the headquarters of the federation, only two days after the controversial decision to strip Legia of the league title.

SCOTLAND: Rangers finally complete the hard-fought signing of striker Duncan Ferguson from Dundee United for a British domestic internal record of £4million.

SWITZERLAND: The draw takes place for the three European club competitions . . . UEFA reject an Antwerp appeal against a £5,000 fine imposed for supporter misbehaviour after the 3-1 semi-final defeat of Moscow Spartak in last season's Cup-winners' Cup.

15 THURSDAY, JULY

ACTION: In the CONCACAF Gold Cup, Canada draw 2-2 with Martinique while Mexico draw 1-1 with Costa Rica.

COLOMBIA: Parma forward Fernando Asprilla is accused of attacking journalists waiting to interview him at Bogota airport.

FRANCE: The state prosecutor handling the Marseille case is reprimanded by the Justice Minister for talking too much to the media about the case.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA confirms the final round for the Asian qualifying section in the World Cup will be held in Doha, Qatar.

16 FRIDAY, JULY

ACTION: Australia draw 1-1 with MSV Duisburg in Germany.

EGYPT: Star midfielder Reda Abdek Aaal sparks a domestic auction when he tries to quit Zamalek to join traditional rivals Alpean football standards (£100,000) but draws a torrent of abuse from the Egyptian media at a time when the country is gripped by economic depression.

ENGLAND: Manchester United secure Roy Keane for an English domestic record of £3.75million from Nottingham Forest. Ryan Giggs agrees a £2,000-a-week, three-year boots deal.

FRANCE: Justice Minister Pierre Mehaignerie opens libel proceedings against Marseille president Bernard Tapie for comparing the methods of his investigating officers with those of the Gestapo.

ITALY: Milan sign Brian Laudrup on loan from Fiorentina and Romanian Florin Raducioiu from Brescia.

PORTUGAL: FC Porto appoint Tomislav Ivic, sacked last season by Benfica, as new coach.

SWITZERLAND: A UEFA appeals tribunal lifts a six-match European ban imposed on Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil after last season's Cup-winners' Cup semi-final against Parma.

UNITED STATES: Alan Rothenberg, president of the USSF and the 1994 World Cup organising committee, admits that — despite denials at the time in mid-1990 — FIFA was seriously considering withdrawing the finals from the US because of a lack of organisational progress.

17 SATURDAY, JULY

ACTION: Several fans are injured, one seriously, after rioting breaks out when Senegal lose 3-1 at home to Morocco in a World Cup qualifier . . . the United States reach the CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-finals by defeating Honduras 1-0; Jamaica, despite being held 1-1 by Panama, are qualifying runners-up in Group A . . . Uganda and Nigeria draw 0-0 in a African Nations qualifier . . . Brazil Under-21 beat Colombia 2-1 in the Independence Cup in Miami . . . China beat the United States in the first women's soccer final at the World Student Games in Hamilton, Ontario.

UNITED STATES: Club Deportivo Mexico (San Francisco) beat German Hungarian Club (Pennsylvania) in the final of the oldest domestic competition, the National Open Cup, which dates back to 1914.

18 SUNDAY, JULY

ACTION: World Cup qualifying action opens in South America with Ecuador drawing 0-0 with Brazil and Venezuela losing 7-1 at home to Bolivia. In the African qualifiers, Ivory Coast beat Algeria 1-0 and Cameroon beat Guinea 1-0 . . . Mexico reach the CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-finals by thrashing Canada 8-0, their worst defeat in more than a century. Costa Rica finish Group B runners-up after defeating Martinique 3-1 . . . in the World Student Games, at Buffalo, the Czech Republic beat South Korea 2-1 in the Final while Germany beat Britain 2-1 in the third place play-off . . . England open their European Under-18 campaign by defeating France 2-0 . . . Australia lose 1-0 to Dutch club De Graafschap.

FRANCE: Monaco give Portugal forward Rui Barros a free transfer in the wake of his knee operation back home in Portugal.

SPAIN: Barcelona buy controversial Brazilian striker Romario from PSV Eindhoven for £2million. He agrees a three-year contract worth £650,000 basic per season.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter is reported to have warned that FIFA may ban Marseille from international football if nobody else acts.

SOCCER ON TV

SKY SPORTS

REGULAR PROGRAMMES —

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL: Monday August 2, 16, 23, 30 at 19.00.
SOCCER NEWS: Monday 18.00 & 22.00. Tuesday 07.00, 08.15, 18.00 & 22.00. Wednesday 07.00, 08.15 & 22.00. Thursday 07.00, 08.15, 18.00. Friday 07.00 & 08.15.
THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD: Tuesday 20.30.
SKY SOCCER WEEKEND: Friday 18.00 & 23.00. Saturday 10.00.
ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM: Friday 09.30 & 17.00.

MONDAY 2 AUGUST
23.30 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL SPECIAL

TUESDAY 3 AUGUST
07.30 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL SPECIAL
21.30 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST
13.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

FRIDAY 6 AUGUST
18.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND UP
01.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND UP

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST
20.30 ..... THE 1993 CHARITY SHIELD — Arsenal v Manchester United

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST
01.30 ..... THE 1993 CHARITY SHIELD — Arsenal v Manchester United

MONDAY 9 AUGUST
13.30 ..... THE 1993 CHARITY SHIELD — Arsenal v Manchester United
20.30 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL SPECIAL

TUESDAY 10 AUGUST
12.30 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL SPECIAL
21.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST
16.30 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

FRIDAY 13 AUGUST
12.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND UP

SUNDAY 15 AUGUST
12.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
14.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — PREVIEW SHOW
16.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY LIVE — Norwich v Manchester United
01.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — Norwich v Manchester United

MONDAY 16 AUGUST
12.30 ..... FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL — Norwich v Manchester United
23.45 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — Tottenham v Arsenal

TUESDAY 17 AUGUST
12.30 ..... FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL — Tottenham v Arsenal
18.15 ..... NETBUSTERS
21.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD
22.15 ..... THE BOSS

WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST
12.30 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD
14.00 ..... THE BOSS
22.15 ..... NETBUSTERS

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST
20.00 ..... ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM
21.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND UP
24.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

SUNDAY 22 AUGUST
12.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
13.30 ..... THE BOSS
14.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — PREVIEW SHOW
16.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE — Swindon v Liverpool
18.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — TALKBACK
23.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY

MONDAY 23 AUGUST
12.30 ..... FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL Swindon v Liverpool
23.45 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — Aston Villa v Manchester United

TUESDAY 24 AUGUST
12.30 ..... FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL — Aston Villa v Man United
18.15 ..... NETBUSTERS
22.15 ..... THE BOSS

WEDNESDAY 25 AUGUST
12.30 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD
14.00 ..... THE BOSS

THURSDAY 26 AUGUST
10.15 ..... NETBUSTERS
21.00 ..... ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM

FRIDAY 27 AUGUST
11.30 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND UP
24.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD

SATURDAY 28 AUGUST
09.30 ..... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
20.15 ..... NETBUSTERS

SUNDAY 29 AUGUST
12.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
13.30 ..... THE BOSS
14.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — PREVIEW SHOW
16.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE — Newcastle United v Blackburn
18.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — TALKBACK
23.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — Newcastle United v Blackburn

MONDAY 30 AUGUST
13.30 ..... FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL — Newcastle United v Blackburn

TUESDAY 31 AUGUST
10.00 ..... FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL — Leeds United v Oldham
18.15 ..... NETBUSTERS
22.45 ..... NETBUSTERS

EUROSPORT

REGULAR PROGRAMMES —
EUROGOALS MAGAZINE: Monday 10.00. Tuesday 12.00 & 5.00.

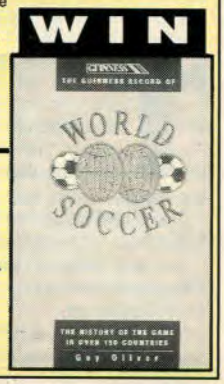
WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST
11.00 ..... EUROGOALS MAGAZINE
THURSDAY 26 AUGUST
9.00 ..... 1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

WORLDWIDE QUIZ

FULL marks to Rob Baker of Maidstone, Kent, winner of the August quiz with an all-correct entry. A copy of the Guinness Record of World Soccer will be on its way soon.
You too have a chance of winning a copy of Guy Oliver's splendid book. Answers on a postcard please, to the usual address by September 1.

1. Which club's attendances rose in 1991-92 by 63 per cent, when they were in the Second Division?
2. Name the player who was sent off after 55 seconds of a match in the 1986 World Cup.
3. Which club played at Jordanvale, Muirpark, Inchview and Meadowside before moving to their present home?
4. Name the three countries Ladislav Kubala appeared for during his playing career.
5. Which innovation became part of soccer law in 1981, after a proposal by a son of the High Sheriff of County Omagh?
6. Name the only club to play in the League Cup Final while in the Fourth Division.
7. Who was the last player to appear in an FA Cup Final after his brother had appeared in one earlier?
8. Name the first player from an Eastern European country to be chosen European Footballer of the Year.
9. Which country won the first ever match played in the European Nations' Cup, now the European Championship?
10. Name the player who made his Football League debut in August 1987, at the age of 35.

WIN



AUGUST ANSWERS

1 ..... Wales, in 1949.
2 ..... Francois Omam-Biyik, who played one game for Marseille in the Champions' Cup before joining Lens.
3 ..... Viking Stavanger of Norway.
4 ..... Mexico.
5 ..... All three scored in a drawn FA Cup Final and the replay.
6 ..... Sparta Rotterdam.
7 ..... Tommy Smith in 1965.
8 ..... Boavista.
9 ..... Boca Juniors, in 1977 and '78.
10 ..... Luxembourg.

lotto

CROSSWORD

By Christine Ansell

WIN! **TO WIN a pair of Lotto Futura boots, fill in this month's crossword and send it to:**
***WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD* (SEPTEMBER),**
25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

Last month's solution

Across:
1. Witschge, 6. Leao, 7. Bruges, 9. Empoli, 10. Black, 11. Parma, 14. Psaila, 16. Hassan, 17. Rahn, 18. Eriksson.

Down:
2. Israel, 3. Hasek, 4. Elephants, 5. Ball, 8. Gascoigne, 12. Monaco, 13. Lahti, 15. Stas.

Last month's winner was Lee Neale of Dovercourt, Essex. ***Well done!***

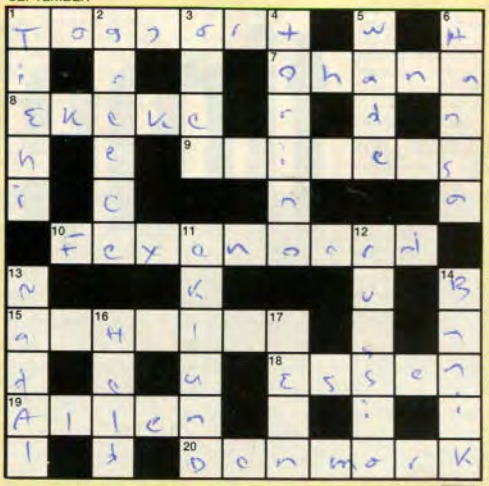
Across

1. ... Northern Ireland's central defender from Barnsley (7)
7. ... Betar Jerusalem and Israel striker formerly with Mechelen (5)
8. ... Eugene, Cameroon forward who tried his luck with Valenciennes (5)
9. ... Ex-Southampton and Spurs forward with 24 England caps, 1971-74 (7)
10. . First Dutch Champions' Cup winners (9)
15. . Last year's Asian club champions from Riyadh (2,5)
18. . Rot-Weiss, former West German champions from the Ruhr (5)
19. . Current Spurs midfielder, youngest-ever FA Cup finalist in 1980 (5)
20. . European Championship winners, 1992 (7)

Down

1. ... Ivory Coast star prominent at Le Havre (5)
2. ... Country in which Hamburg won the Champions' Cup (6)
3. ... Abidjan club, Ivory Coast League champions, 1990-92 (4)
4. ... Italian club sharing the Delle Alpi with Juventus (6)
5. ... English-born Melbourne defender honoured as Australian skipper (4)
6. ... Former East German champions from Rostock (5)
11. . Swedish international forward of Osters fame (6)
12. . Nation whose league includes Asmaral and Vladikavkaz (6)
13. . Former Real Mallorca utility man of Barcelona and Spain (5)
14. . 1991 Czech Cup winners from Ostrava (5)
16. . Ex-German international star more recently a coach at Admira Wacker (4)
17. . Mexican club represented in the 1993 Championship quarter-finals (4)

SEPTEMBER



Name

Address

Postcode

Country

Photocopies are acceptable. SHOE SIZE

Thousands upon thousands . . . the scene as Mexico players and fans celebrate victory in the final against the United States.

CONCACAF GOLD CUP 1993

Goleada time!

WHEN Jack Warner from Trinidad was elected the new president of CONCACAF in April 1990 he made two things crystal clear.

He would get CONCACAF moving after decades of torpor; and he didn't like the name CONCACAF.

"Too long, sounds like a dirty word," said Warner, and he initiated a competition to find a new acronym for the North and Central American and Caribbean Confederation.

He has not come up with one yet. The name is still CONCACAF — but just about everything else in the Confederation has been turned upside down. The office was moved from Guatemala to New York and Chuck Blazer, an American, was appointed secretary. "We've got to have a Nations' Cup," was one of Warner's first directives to Blazer. Within a year, sponsorship was in place and the new competition was being staged in Los Angeles.

It was called the CONCACAF Gold Cup and first prize was $100,000. The fans turned up in large numbers — most of them were Mexican or Honduran or Costa Rican, it's true, but they ended up cheering for the United States, who won the tournament by beating Honduras on penalties in the final. Along the way, the Americans had upset the Mexicans, 2-0 in the semi-final.

Mexico, for so long the reigning power in the CONCACAF region, humiliated by the Yanks — that was more than the Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente could bear, and he resigned on the spot.

The second edition of the Gold Cup, scheduled for this year, ran into organisational problems. At first, the idea was to use four sites in Los Angeles.

That did not work out, nor did the alternative of splitting the games between Dallas and Los Angeles.

Dallas and Monterrey in Mexico as dual sites did not work out either, and eventually it had to be Dallas and Mexico City. The CONCACAF people were concerned that the Gold Cup might not create an impact in the huge Mexican capital.

Their fears were not allayed when the Mexicans announced their team for the tournament. It was clearly a "B" team.

Chuck Blazer was not having that, and faxed them saying it was unacceptable.

The fans deserved better. The Mexicans bowed, and agreed to field most of their top players.

Not too difficult a decision, perhaps, for things had been going well for them.

Qualification for the 1994 World Cup had been followed by a successful appearance in the Copa America, in which the team had reached the final and had been widely praised for enterprising football. Suddenly, the country was fervently behind the team.

The frustrations of 1990, when Mexico were banned from the World Cup, were forgotten.

The team responded with a series of sparkling performances in the Gold Cup. Martinique were thumped 9-0, Canada swept aside by 8-0. Costa Rica managed a 1-1 draw, then came a 6-1 semi-final win over Jamaica. They have a word in Spanish for a high scoring game: a goleada.

For Mexico it was goleada after goleada.

In the 9-0 win over Martinique forward Zaguinho staged his own personal festival by scoring seven goals.

In the Canada game, the Mexicans brought on their reserve goalkeeper as a substitute, so that the number one keeper, Jorge Campos (who also is a highly-skilled outfield player), could move up to the forward line, where he duly assisted on the two final goals, and hit a post.

As Mexico advanced to the Gold Cup final, up north the United States were winning all their games in the Dallas group. But not with anything like the facility that Mexico were sweeping all before them.

There were narrow 1-0 victories over Jamaica and Honduras, and a 2-1 come-from-behind win over Panama.

Goal upon goal . . . the third of the final, Zaguinho's 12th of the tournament.

The semi-final against Costa Rica went to sudden-death extra-time, before Cle Kooiman scored the only goal of the game for the US.

The Costa Ricans complained, with considerable justification, that they should have had a penalty after a clattering tackle by US defender Alexi Lalas. So the stage was set for the final in the Azteca Stadium.

Mexico v US — the two CONCACAF teams who will play in the 1994 World Cup. A chance for the US to retain the Gold Cup title they won in 1991. A chance for the Mexicans to gain revenge for that semi-final defeat.

Before the semi-final against Jamaica the Mexican coach, Miguel Mejia Baron, had warned the public not to expect any more goleadas. But his team had then scored six times. The public were not listening to warnings any more.

Over 120,000 fans jammed Azteca Stadium, taking the total attendance for Mexico's five games to 440,000, all seeking another goleada. The crowd, including President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, got exactly what they wanted.

Right from the kick-off the US were out-run, out-hustled, out-thought, out-played and ultimately out-played and outclassed. After 11 minutes of almost constant Mexican attacks, Ignacio Ambriz opened the scoring with a 35-yard free kick as goalkeeper Tony Meola slipped going for the ball.

Twenty minutes later the relentless Mexican pressure got the American defenders in a hopeless tangle and sweeper Desmond Armstrong put the ball into his own net.

Second-half goals from Zaguinho and substitute Cantu capped the rout. Not a happy afternoon for the Americans.

They had most of their European-based players on view (though Tab Ramos was suspended), so the team were presumably close to the strongest squad.

Yet they were a sorry bunch who never really threatened the Mexican goal. Afterwards, they blamed altitude and the air pollution. Kooiman (who plays his club football in Mexico for Cruz Azul) said: "You're out there giving 100 per cent, but you're only getting 80 per cent results."

Roy Wegerle said: "You can't play when you can't get any oxygen in your lungs. I was ineffective from the first minute. I've never played in anything like this, it's crazy."

Cobi Jones had to be substituted after suffering an asthma-like attack: "It wasn't the altitude," he said, "It was the smog."

Truth to tell, nobody had looked particularly good for the US.

Lalas, who struggled for 90 embarrassing minutes, hopelessly out of his depth, managed to come up with the most honest assessment: "We just didn't play that well."

The United States coach Bora Milutinovic, who used to coach Mexico (Mejia Baron was one of his assistants) made no excuses.

Instead, he heaped praise on Mexico: "From now on, everyone will have a growing respect for Mexico."

There is no doubt that this is a very useful Mexican team, probably the best the country has ever had.

The technical level of Mexican players has always been good; here it looks exceptional.

What has been added is defensive solidity and a great deal of confidence. Ambriz is an inspiring, mobile captain, everyone's idea of the midfield dynamo. In Ramon Ramirez Mexico have a superb flank player, tireless, skilful and inventive, while up front the rangy Zaguinho allies powerful dribbling skill and astute tactical movement with the cunning of the born scorer.

Perhaps the most exciting thing about the Mexicans is that, in the Copa America, they held Argentina to a 1-1 draw in the first round, then went down only 2-1 to them in the final.

And Mexico did it not by playing defensively or by employing tactical trickery. They did it with exciting, flowing, attacking football.

PAUL GARDNER

CONCACAF GOLD CUP 1993 RESULTS

GROUP A
Dallas (Cotton Bowl)

SATURDAY, JULY 10

US 1 (Wynalda 67)
JAMAICA 0
Att: 11,642.
US: Meola, Armstrong, Kooiman, Clavijo, Harkes (Lalas 71), Dooley, Henderson, Jones, Ramos, Wegerle, Wynalda (Kinnear 84).
Jamaica: Barrett, Sewell, Dixon (Earle 75), Corbett, Brown, Smith, Hewitt, Anglin, Wright, Davis (Reid 71), Boyd.

HONDURAS 5 (Gayle 25, Bennett 51, 69 pen, 83, Pineda 54)
PANAMA 1 (Julio 30)
Att: 11,642.
Honduras: Cruz, G.Calix, Castro, Garcia, Fu, Garay, Espinoza (Suazo 77), Gayle, Pineda (L.Calix 73), Dolmo Flores, Bennett.
Panama: James, Delgado, Poyatos, Lozado, Julio, Bernal (Atencio 65), Piggott, Mendez, Mendieta, A.Dely Valdez, Clark.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

US 2 (Wynalda 68, Dooley 73)
PANAMA 1 (Piggott 31)
Att: 13,771.
US: Meola, Armstrong, Kooiman, Clavijo, Lalas, Dooley, Henderson, Jones, Ramos, Vermes (Wegerle 46, Kinnear, 77), Wynalda.
Panama: James, Delgado, Poyatos, Medina (Diaz 88), Lozado, Clark, Julio, Mendez, (Atencio, 80), Mendieta, A.Dely Valdez, Piggott.

JAMAICA 3 (Jarret 28, Davis 48, Boyd 77)
HONDURAS 1 (Bennett pen 19)
Att: 13,771.
Jamaica: Barrett, Sewell (Hamilton 72), Gaynor, Corbett, Brown, D.Smith, Reid, Anglin, Wright, Davis, Jarret (Boyd, 46).
Honduras: W.Cruz, Castro, Garcia, Fu, Lanza, Villatoro (Suazo 69), Garay, Espinoza, Gayle (Rochez 58), Pineda, Dolmo Flores, Bennett.

SATURDAY, JULY 17

US 1 (Lalas 29)
HONDURAS 0
Att: 16,348.
US: Meola, Armstrong, Kooiman, Clavijo, Lalas, Dooley (Kinnear 36), Henderson, Harkes, Ramos, Wegerle, Wynalda (Moore 86).
Honduras: W.Cruz, Castro, Martinez, Garay, Rochez, Avila (Dolmo Flores 81), Fu, Lanza, L.Calix, Pineda, Suazo (Pavon 81), Bennett.

JAMAICA 1 (Davis 76)
PANAMA 1 (Mendieta 50)
Att: 16,348.
Jamaica: Barrett, Sewell, Gaynor, Dixon (Reid 73), Corbett, Brown, Wright, Anglin, Boyd, Davis, Dennis (Jarret 58).
Panama: James, Julio, Delgado, Mendez (Castillo 78), Lozado, Diaz (Atencio 64), Bernal, Clark, Mendieta, A.Dely Valdez, Piggott.

GROUP B
Mexico City (Aztec Stadium)

SUNDAY, JULY 11

MEXICO 9 (Zaguinho 10, 21, 40, 52, 81, 84, 90, Ramirez 42, Hernandez 93)
MARTINIQUE 0
Att: 40,000.
Mexico: Campos, Hernandez, Nava, Perales, Suarez, Rodriguez, Ambriz, Ramirez (Coyote 46), Mora, Salvador (A.Garcia 46), Zaguinho.
Martinique: Lagier, Bellemare, Tinmar, Zaire, Coridon, Borval, Valide (Narcisse 78), Sophie, Honore (Emica 63), Modestin.

CANADA 1 (Dasovic 42)
COSTA RICA 1 (Meyers 81)
Att: 40,000.
Canada: Forrest, Miller, Watson, Samuel, Limniatis, Scott (Thompson 78), Mobilio (Aunger 75), Dasovic, Hooper, Berdusco, Bunbury.
Costa Rica: Lonnis, Parks (R.Meyers 55), Marin, Mata, Delgado, M. Meyers, Cayasso, Castro, Murillo (Solano 260), Guthrie, Peynado.

THURSDAY, JULY 15

MEXICO 1 (Zaguinho 74)
COSTA RICA 1 (Cayasso 31)
Att: 60,000.
Mexico: Campos, Hernandez, Perales, Suarez, Ramirez, Ambriz, Mora, Noriega (Rodriguez 60), Coyote (Salvador 46), Zaguinho.
Costa Rica: Lonnis, Peynado, Marin, Delgado, Mata, Guthrie, Morera, Rodriguez, Solano (M.Meyers 73), R. Meyers (Gomez 63), Cayasso.

CANADA 2 (Aunger 25, Bunbury 43)
MARTINIQUE 2 (Gertrude 53, Fondelet 86)
Att: 60,000.
Canada: Onstad, Yallop, Concina, Limniatis, Watson, Scott (Samuel 73), Hooper, Miller, Aunger, Peschisolido (Berdusco 67), Bunbury.
Martinique: Lagier, Bellemare, Tinmar, Antonin, Zaire, Valider, Coridon, Honore (Fondelot 52), Modestin (Carole 64), Gertrude, Sophie.

SUNDAY, JULY 18

MEXICO 8 (Rodriguez 4, 67, Mora 24, 31, Zaguinho 34, 38, Salvador 82, 85)
CANADA 0
Att: 120,000.
Mexico: Campos, Hernandez, Perales, Suarez, Ramirez, Ambriz, Mora (Cantu, 46), Del Olmo, Rodriguez, Salvador, Zaguinho (Garcia 61).
Canada: Forrest, Miller, Samuel, Watson, Yallop, Scott (Concina 46), Hooper, Mobilio (Peschisolido 60), Dasovic, Bunbury, Aunger.

COSTA RICA 3 (R. Meyers 27, Cayasso 69, 85)
MARTINIQUE 1 (Tinmar 60)
Att: 120,000.
Costa Rica: Lonnis, Parks, Marin, Delgado, Mata, Guthrie, Morera, Solano (M.Meyers 64), R.Meyers, Castro (Rojas 84), Cayasso.
Martinique: Lagier, Bellemare, Tinmar, Narcisse, Zaire, Valider, Coridon, Emica (Modestin 77), Gertrude, Sophie, Fondelot (Borval 77).

SEMI-FINALS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

in Dallas (Cotton Bowl)
US 1 (Kooiman 103)
COSTA RICA 0
Att: 15,000.
US: Meola, Lalas, Kooiman, Armstrong, Clavijo (Jones 65), Dooley, Henderson, Harkes, Ramos, Wynalda, Wegerle.
Costa Rica: Lonnis, Parcks, Delgado, Mann, Peynado, Mata, Castro, Morera, Gomez (R.Meyers 57), Cayasso, M. Meyers.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

in Mexico City (Aztec Stadium)
MEXICO 6 (Salvador 9, 18, 34, Mora 14, Zaguinho 50, Ambriz 55)
JAMAICA 1 (Wright 17)
Att: 100,000.
Mexico: Campos, Hernandez, Suarez, Perales (Ramirez), Ramon Ramirez (Garcia 58), Ambriz, Del Olmo, Mora (Turrubiates 58), Rodriguez, Salvador, Zaguinho.
Jamaica: Barrett, Gaynor, Sewell, Corbett, Brown, Jarret (Reid 61), D.Smith, Hewitt (A.Smith 61), Davis, Wright, Boyd.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

SUNDAY, JULY 25

in Mexico City (Aztec Stadium)
COSTA RICA 1 (Guthrie 10)
JAMAICA 1 (Jarret 89)
Att: 100,000.
Costa Rica: Paterson, Guthrie, Delgado, Marin, Mata, Cayasso, Murillo, Peynado, Morera, Castro (R.Meyers 55), M. Meyers (Solano 76).
Jamaica: Barrett, Gaynor, Smith (Jarret 51), Corbett, Brown, Hamilton, Sewell, Dennis, Wright, Boyd (Reid 56), Davis.

FINAL

SUNDAY, JULY 25

in Mexico City (Aztec Stadium)
MEXICO 4 (Ambriz 11, Armstrong og 31, Zaguinho 69, Cantu 79)
US 0
Att: 120,000.
Mexico: Campos, Hernandez, Ramirez, Perales, Suarez, Ramon Ramirez, Mora (Cantu 76), Ambriz, Del Olmo, Rodriguez, Salvador (Noriega 76), Zaguinho.
US: Meola, Kooiman, Doyle, Armstrong, Lalas, Dooley, Wegerle (Moore 78), Harkes, Jones (Kinnear 52), Henderson, Wynalda.

APSL — *Results*

June 16: Vancouver 1 Toronto 0.
June 18: Fort Lauderdale 1 Montreal 2.
June 19: Colorado 3 Toronto 1, Tampa Bay 1 Montreal 2.
June 25: Vancouver 3 Colorado 2.
June 26: Los Angeles 3 Tampa Bay 2.
June 27: Montreal 3 Fort Lauderdale 0, Colorado 2 Tampa Bay 0.
June 28: Toronto 3 Fort Lauderdale 0.
July 1: Vancouver 0 Montreal 2.
July 2: Fort Lauderdale 2 Los Angeles 3, Tampa Bay 2 Los Angeles 0.
July 3: Colorado 1 Vancouver 2.
July 4: Toronto 3 Montreal 4.
July 9: Montreal 2 Tampa Bay 0, Vancouver 2 Fort Lauderdale 1.
July 10: Los Angeles 1 Fort Lauderdale 0.
July 11: Toronto 1 Tampa Bay 2, Colorado 0 Los Angeles 2.
July 14: Montreal 2 Toronto 1.
July 16: Montreal 1 Fort Lauderdale 2, Vancouver 3 Tampa Bay 1.
July 17: Los Angeles 4 Tampa Bay 2.
July 18: Toronto 3 Fort Lauderdale 2.
July 23: Colorado 2 Toronto 0.
July 24: Fort Lauderdale 4 Vancouver 3.
July 25: Los Angeles 0 Toronto 2, Tampa Bay 2 Vancouver 1.

Standings

	W	L	F	A	Pts
Vancouver 86ers	11	5	31	26	95
Colorado Foxes	10	4	22	16	78
Los Angeles Salsa	9	4	26	20	70
Montreal Impact	8	6	23	18	69
Tampa Bay Rowdies	5	11	31	36	60
Toronto Blizzard	6	11	23	32	59
Fort Lauderdale Strikers	4	12	25	35	54

● *6 points for a win in regulation or overtime; 4pts for a shoot-out win, 2pts for a shoot-out loss; 1pt for each goal scored in regulation, up to a maximum of three.*

RODNEY: Home and away

RODNEY MARSH may come home at last.

Tampa Bay Rowdies, the club he has been associated with on and off since the mid–1970s, are to be sold by their owner, Cornelia Corbett, probably to a group of businessmen in Hartford, Connecticut.

If successful in their bid they would move the club north from Florida to New England.

No chance, says Marsh, that he would follow.

He already spends a good deal of time in Britain, travelling around with a show in which he appears with George Best.

Who, all those years ago, with dazzling displays for Manchester United, was the chief reason why Marsh was under so much pressure at Manchester City.

Comparisons were not just odious but demoralising. Which in turn, when he flew to the States with Elton John, probably led Marsh to say accept an offer from Tampa.

As Queens Park Rangers centre–forward, before his debatable move to Manchester, Marsh became a hero.

He blended power with flamboyant skill, and would score the kind of goals most forwards could only dream bout.

Significantly, he says that the greatest compliment he has been paid came recently at second–hand via Rildo, once Brazil's accomplished World Cup left–back.

Rildo, now managing another of those struggling clubs in the ailing APSL, told Marsh of a pre–match tactical talk in the New York Cosmos dressing–room, before a game with Tampa.

Pele stood up and said: "Watch that number 10. He plays like a Brazilian." That number 10 of course, was Marsh.

Vintage Marsh . . . scoring for Manchester City against Tottenham in September 1972.

At home, with QPR (above), and away, with Tampa Bay (top).

Intelligent, humorous, outspoken, he has no faith in the immediate future of the American game, despite the fact that the World Cup is coming, despite the fact that such huge crowds attended June's US '93 Cup.

"The game in this country is dying of cancer", he says. The cancer is the naivety and lack of understanding which inhabits the football body.

"The more people get hold of it who don't understand it, the more they screw it up. Consequently my life is taking another turn. I linked up last year with George Best, when we started to do these roadshows about our careers, which has had tremendous success, everywhere from Exeter to Ashton–Under–Lyne."

But the prospect of soccer in the States is not, he thinks, all gloom.

"What I think will be the salvation of the sport in this country 20 years after I'm dead (he's 47), will be the third and fourth generation of soccer people who will have grown up with the sport, will have played it in college.

"When that generation of people take charge, that's when it will take off."

Phone calls from the American blue have played a large part in Marsh's life. The first was from Beauclerc Rogers IV, owner of the Rowdies, when Rodney was on tour with Elton John.

Would he come down to have a look at Tampa.

"Being the positive–thinking person I am, I agreed immediately and flew down there. As soon as I put my first foot off the plane in Tampa, I immediately knew I was going to change my whole life."

That was October, 1975, after Marsh had clashed with Tony Book, then the Manchester City manager, and the chairman, Peter Swales, over the kind of football City were playing.

Marsh, King of the castle at QPR, under–used by England, had been taken to Maine Road by Malcolm Allison; a move which meant radically re–making the team.

It cost Mike Doyle his place, things fell apart, there were bad vibrations, bad morale.

Not Marsh's fault, except perhaps that, being the intelligent fellow he is, he might have foreseen it.

Allison as City coach was a different phenomenon from Allison as City manager.

"I retired in 1980 after four full seasons with Tampa," says Marsh.

"I came back on loan from America to Fulham, with George Best and Bobby Moore, which is a memory I will treasure because Bobby was a wonderful man, and that's something you can never take away.

"I treasure the seven months I had at Fulham. I will always think of those years with fondness. The crowds went from about 4,000 to 25,000.

"We had some brilliant performances, and for six or seven months it was a sliver of history, which was very romantic."

The more so, no doubt because Marsh had begun his career with Fulham, had been deafened in one ear when, bravely heading a goal, he had crashed into a goal post. Later, inexplicably, he was sold to QPR for peanuts.

Another row about tactics – this time, he says, with people who knew nothing the game — led to his leaving Tampa; though he would eventually be back.

For four months he played for New York United, "a semi–pro team owned by Jimmy Sorrentino, a delightful Sicilian."

Then another phone call out of the blue. From Charlotte North, Carolina. "We hear you're looking for a job, and we want a head coach."

Marsh agreed immediately. Positive thinking.

"I got down to Charlotte in September, 1980. They gave me a four–year contract.

"The American Soccer League. A German–Italian League.

"If you had your own teeth by the time you were seven, they called you a cissy.

"It felt like I was banished to a football wilderness. But it was wonderful, because it gave me the opportunity look at the business of football, first hand, which I'd never understood as a player. A great training ground for the marketing, sales, sponsorship side of the game."

Marsh would not like to play in England these days.

"I played the game because I loved it. I loved to hear fans shout my name. I loved scoring goals and trying things . . . and failing!

"We all go through that, because when you try something and it fails and then it eventually succeeds, the high is so much higher.

"I look at some players today, I look at their faces, and I see they're playing for the money.

"I never did that. The game has become too blanking commercial.

And too frenetic, too fast.

"The game in England has changed so dramatically from when I played.

"When I left, my parting words were, football in England is a grey game played on grey days by grey people.

"Compounded by the fact that the game now is played at a breathtaking pace and we give away possession of the ball so easily.

"Florian Albert of Hungary was in America years ago, giving a clinic.

"He was asked about England's 6–3 defeat by Hungary in 1953, and explained the difference between the teams by saying 'In Hungary we make love to the ball and we sleep with it. The English eat it'.

"When Charles Hughes (FA Director of Coaching) came out with his ridiculous statement that Brazil have got it all wrong because they pass the ball too much, that was the last nail in the coffin of English football."

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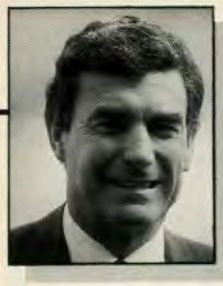

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

Irish example

SIR — England's current problems at international level have been blamed on the fact that British players are simply not good enough to compete with continentals.

This is not the case. The problem can be solved by good management.

Here in Ireland we now have a highly successful international side. But this was not the case seven years ago, when Jack Charlton (above right) took over.

By instilling a strong work ethic he has developed a formidable side.

England have the basis of a very good side. Gascoigne, Platt, Waddle, Merson, Walker and Ian Wright are blessed with class and command millions on the transfer market.

The problem is that hard work is perceived as old-fashioned and primitive in England and this attitude will not be changed by continually weak management.

— DESMOND MULLALLY, Templeogue, Dublin 16, Ireland.

● I DON'T believe England's poor showing recently is solely down to weak management, although I agree Graham Taylor has made mistakes which have contributed to the fragile position the side now faces with regard to World Cup qualification. He is still juggling with the system in the belief that one is suited for a warm climate, and the other suits the more traditional English winter weather. I don't accept that, and certainly don't notice Germany adjusting their style from match to match.

His insistence on leaving out Waddle is another mistake. He is an obvious alternative to Gascoigne. Taylor is not blessed with an abundance of creative midfielders or exciting attacking forwards.

Shearer has been absent, too, and this leaves the side lacking the quality to score goals at international level.

The matches against Poland, Holland and San Marino are crucial for English football, and should give a clear indication how good or bad we really are.

Charlton certainly deserves tremendous praise for his work in Ireland, but it's not too surprising when you see a midfield of Keane, Townsend, Staunton, Houghton and Sheridan.

Michigan ahoy!

SIR — I recently saw the first full international played indoors on grass. In the Pontiac Silverdome I saw Germany defeat England 2-1.

This match also claimed the highest attendance for a US Cup match (62,126), and was the first time an American match had raised $1,000,000 in gates alone.

Many people all over the world see a brilliant future in American football but I cannot be that optimistic.

The thought of a comprehensive league here thrills me, but it will not happen in the near future.

The fans at these US Cup matches were overwhelmingly foreign. If a full league is established, attendances would likely be less than 10,000 a match. Dismal, isn't it?

But World Cup '94 has sold out in all venues except the Silverdome. We'd be glad to see you out here in Michigan!

— MIKE RANEY, Shelby Twp, MI, USA

● HAVING watched the match I am equally optimistic about the success of next year's World Cup.

The communications and marketing expertise available guarantee a lucrative return for all those participating countries. But I too have grave doubts that it will act as the long-term catalyst needed to establish soccer within the host nation.

As I have mentioned before their greatest downfall is the lack of an amateur league structure for any players after they leave the colleges.

It means they cannot sustain the interest created in thousands of youngsters, and lack the older generation of players who will pass the game onto their families in the future.

Who will win?

SIR — I know there is still some time to go, but will you please get off the fence and give readers the benefit of your forecasting skill?

Which country will win the 1994 World Cup? And which country will be second?

— KEN DOMUS, Portland, Oregon, US.

● IT'S a bit early to start forecasting when we still don't ever know the qualifiers. If you pushed me to name my last four I would go for Argentina, Brazil, Germany and Italy.

In six months, when countries and squads are beginning to take shape, I am hopeful of one or two more outsiders emerging as possible winners. The African qualifiers are bound to be formidable and there looks like being some unexpected European qualifiers.

What's the limit?

SIR — Is there a limit on how many foreign players a team can use in the World Club Cup?

I ask because I recently discovered that Barcelona had Ronald Koeman (Holland), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria), Michael Laudrup (Denmark) and Richard Witschge (Holland) in their starting line-up for the match in Tokyo early this year. The standard three foreigner rule obviously doesn't apply, which also begs another question. Why not?

— DEAN NAUGHTON, 7 Queenswood Rise, Leeds, Yorkshire, LS6 3EF.

● YOU'RE quite right about their being no restriction as you find in the European club competitions. With the World Club Cup being between Europe and South American sides the rule doesn't apply, and as it's a one-off spectacle, sponsors are quite happy to have as many stars as possible on display. But it's important for it to be retained in Europe; firstly to avoid money dominating totally; but secondly to make sure countries develop sufficient of their own talent.

Equal to any

SIR — I wish everybody would stop calling my beloved Rangers a second-rate team who can only dominate in Scotland.

We have proved we can match the best of Europe. Look what we did to Leeds — we beat them so badly they never recovered.

We were so unlucky in the Champions League. We never lost a match but didn't get into the final.

I agree we play easier teams in Scotland but we are far from a mickey mouse team full of foreigners, as we proved in Europe. Next year we will win the Champions' Cup and I hope it's Manchester United we play and beat.

— PAUL KERR, Lenton, Nottingham.

● I CAN understand your frustration that Rangers don't perhaps receive the recognition they deserve, but they have become such a dominant force in Scotland it is not surprising many people find it difficult to judge their strength against other European sides.

Up until last season their Champions' Cup record had been very poor, and so their tremendous effort when unluckily missing out to Marseille impressed everyone. They must now prove that consistency again this time, and the arrival of Duncan Ferguson (above) from Dundee United for nearly £4 million will add to the scoring potential.

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Unfair failure

SIR — The Swindon v Tranmere match when the latter were leading 2-1 (only to have the game abandoned due to lights failure), should re-start where the game left off.

That system is currently adopted by the Spanish FA.

Perhaps our FA should do the wise thing and follow suit.
— ALEX T. O'DONNELL, 3 Church Place, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Eire.

● I AGREE with your suggestion, because it's extremely unfair for a team to be penalised when leading what could be a crucial promotion match. Injuries, form and the weather can all be completely different a few weeks later and any side having an advantage when the lights fail should start with the benefit of that lead when the match is rearranged.

Let's hope the FA take note of your suggestion.

The foolish few

SIR — A letter (July) mentioned the possibility of English fans being isolated during the 1994 World Cup, to prevent hooligan troubles.

I attended several games of the US Cup and ran into many English fans. I saw England's games in Boston and Washington and did not notice any real trouble.

I took the train between sites and had many opportunities to chat with "the Redcoats".

They were quite friendly and happy to talk football with a Yank.

Many times they were loud, but never rude, not surly, not violent. Before the game with the US they chaffed me about our chances of victory. Little did they know. I enjoyed meeting them and would hate to see them singled out.

It would be unfair to segregate the English fans based on the actions of a minority of fools. The same could be done to other nationalities as well.
— WALTER TERRY, Reading, Pennsylvania, United States.

● IT was encouraging to hear of your experiences with English supporters during the US Cup, and as you rightly point out it is only the action of a few irresponsible idiots who create such apprehension.

The trip this summer was quite a low-key affair and the numbers involved far less than the real thing next year, assuming England manage to make the trip!

Once all the qualifying countries are known, and sides allocated to the various venues, then I'm sure the security arrangements can be more easily identified.

Brazil weakness

SIR — The only solution for the dire situation in Brazil is for FIFA to take control.

They should lay down rules, like cutting down fixture congestion, taking a tough line on referees, and limiting the powers from the organisers and *TV Globo*.

If anything gets out of hand there will have to be serious consequences, and that means banning Brazil from the World Cup. It is unthinkable to everyone worldwide but it could get their own house in order.

All the political wrangling has ruined the great image of Brazilian football and they will never become champions again unless they are told what to do by the men in Geneva, and that includes Havelange, a Brazilian!

The rest of South America appear to have it right especially in Argentina, where they play just once a week.

Brazil, the eyes of the world are watching.
— ROB BERESFORD, Birmingham.

● SO at least England isn't the only place where everyone moans about too many matches; the demands on players; TV influence; and the power of money.

Mind you, the Brazilian team in the US during the summer didn't look short on skill! One huge problem these days is the massive wages now being paid to players, forcing clubs to generate extra income.

Until a happy medium is agreed, the problems of fixture congestion will continue, which sadly, inevitably reduces the entertainment value.

Attacks by ink

SIR — The scathing tabloid attacks on England manager Graham Taylor are a repeat of what happened to Bobby Robson (the best England manager since Sir Alf Ramsey).

Taylor, however, is his own worst enemy. Instead of engaging in PR exercises when speaking in public, he should tell the media that he is boss and not them.

His lack of assertiveness in such a situation coupled with the tabloids' biased dissection of post-match interviews, seem to have spread to the players.

Unless Taylor (who had an excellent club record) gains the fading respect of his players, this war will end up in victory for the ink men.
— PAT WALSH, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Rep. of Ireland.

● BOTH Bobby Robson and Graham Taylor have suffered very unpleasant personal attacks from the tabloid papers, and it seems any national team manager must endure this relentless criticism. There is nothing wrong with constructive comment, but sadly much of it is destructive propaganda which most football supporters find totally unnecessary.

So sorry, Silvio

SIR — Silvio Berlusconi deluded himself on the prospect of a European Super League, based on his belief or anticipation that his "dream team concept" would win everything in sight.

He was proved wrong. I have a gut feeling that Milan's failure this year, judging by the targets Berlusconi set for himself, may put a stop to his preposterous rhetoric.

It is time for the ghost to be laid to rest. UEFA please take note.
— TOSIN OLAWALE DUYILE, London.

● THE league structure now in place for the Champions' Cup is ample compensation for pushing back any grand ideas about a European Super League.

Those making the last eight enjoy a lucrative sequence of matches which should delay any great demand for further change.

Milan's poor finish to last season tended to cloud some of their outstanding performances earlier on. This season looks far more unpredictable with the missing Dutch influence bound to have an adverse effect on Milan.

Savicevic, Papin, Boban and Elber are obviously very talented, but teams such as Juventus and Internazionale must be very real contenders.

PENPALS

FOOTBALL fan would like to hear from anyone, esp. Sheffield Wed. and Southampton fans.
— Sarah, 18 Lindsay Court, Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey, England.

FOOTBALLER, 23, seeks penpals to discuss tactics, experiences etc.
— Lamin Karbou, Kinderdorf High School, Brikama Town, Kombo Central, The Gambia.

IRAQI football fans seeks penpals in any country.
— Zuhair Haki Sa'eed (26) 1140, near Post Office, Hay Alsalam, Baghdad, Iraq.

ENGLISH, Italian and Brazilian fan, 17, seeks m/f penpals, any age/nationality.
— Dean McCarthy, 427 Binley Road, Coventry, W. Midlands CV3 2DF, England.

GIRL, 18, fond of soccer, seeks penpals, esp. from Britain.
— Elizabeth Hawuwu, PO Box 1789, Sunyani, Ghana.

FOOTBALL fan seeks others (teenage, m/f) anywhere.
— Martin Scott, 3 Essex Close, Blackburn BB2 2LW, England.

CHINESE fan looking for penfriends m/f in any country, all letters answered.
— Li Ming, No. 7-401, Molinglu 101 Cn, Nanjing 210004, Jiangsu, China.

GHANAIAN, 18, footballer and fan, seeks penpals.
— Desmond K. Yeboah, PO Box 1100, Sunyani BA, Ghana.

WANTED

SOCCER coaching books written in English by foreign coaches, esp. East European.
— Tony O'Connell, 40 Oranmore Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Rep. Ireland.

USA, Canada, Australia, Norway, Ajax (away) and Rapid Vienna shirts, 38/40. Will pay your price or swap.
— Garry Crawford, 61 Kenmount Drive, Kennoway, Fife, Scotland.

PANINI 92 stickers from France and Belgium, France and Germany 92-93 cards, and collector binders for Score 92 and 93 Italy cards, will exchange for British.
— Gary Milne, 2 Ardeer Place, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

EXCHANGES

BELGIAN tickets (internationals and European games) in exchange for others worldwide.
— Jurgen Custers, Acacialaan 41, B-3583 Beringen, Belgium.

SAO PAULO fan will exchange souvenirs of Brazilian clubs with other fans in other countries. Please write English.
— Luiz Gustavo Zonca, Rua Caiubi 1447, Ap. 141, Sao Paulo 05010-000, Brazil.

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SHOOT

Out every Tuesday

JAPAN

Antlers at the front

First-half title for Kashima

UNFANCIED Kashima Antlers clinched the first stage of the J.League with two games to spare, by beating the bottom club, Urawa Red Diamonds, 2-0.

That was only a formality; Antlers had built up such a formidable goal difference that nobody could catch them.

The team Zico built were head and shoulders above the rest of the J.League.

Few had expected them even to join the league, let alone win it.

Kashima, in a remote and declining town of 40,000 in Ibaraki Prefecture, hardly seemed qualified to take part.

Saburo Kawabuch, the J.League's chairman, likes to tell how he tried to discourage Kashima from applying.

"You are 99.999 per cent certain to be rejected," he said.

"So what is that remaining 0.0001 per cent?" was the reply.

Kawabuchi told them they had to build a specialised stadium; they erected the most attractive ground in Japan, with a top-notch Swiss drainage system. Kashima also are building a railway station close to the ground. And they signed Zico, who wanted a coaching job but then agreed to play.

Even so, Kashima probably would have had to wait, but got in when Yanmar failed to put a bid together.

Zico kept several players from the old Second Division days, including Masatada Ishii, a gifted midfielder who glides magically down the left.

They were joined by a group from Honda, a former First Division team who did not apply for J.League membership, and some hand-picked Brazilians: Santos, the master of midfield, and Alcindo, top scorer in the J.League with 14 goals and now the most talked-about player in Japan.

Zico's influence is clear in every department. Kashima are the fastest, best-organised and most imaginative side in the country, deadly from free-kicks and quick down both wings.

Zico, injured, played only one full game, but even that hardly took the wind from their sails.

While other J.League clubs went looking for stars, Zico was building a team.

Verdy and Marinos, the pre-season favourites, filled second and third places respectively, but both failed to achieve consistency. Gary Lineker's

Leading . . . top scorer Alcindo (above). Missing . . . the injured Noh (right).

Nagoya Grampus Eight were badly hit by injuries and finished the first stage second from last.

But Lineker is recovering from his broken foot and should return for the second stage.

Injuries and exhaustion marred the first stage for almost every club.

Besides Zico and Lineker, other big names forced to miss several fixtures included Marco Antonio and Toninho at Shimizu, and Vonderburg and Noh at Sanfrecce.

The "sudden death" system produced an odd table.

There were no questions about top and bottom, but the rest was topsy turvy. Well-organised but technically weaker teams such as Gamba and Flugels lost out badly, while those like Verdy, who have more flair than strategy, did well.

Verdy owed second place almost entirely to their skill in converting penalties.

Several clubs have made new signings. Verdy have acquired Bismarck from Vasco da Gama, and JEF United have signed Littbarski's pal, striker Frank Ordenewitz, from Koln.

Celso Luis Gomes of Atletico Taquaritinga in Brazil is joining Shimizu S Pulse, J.League aspirants Kashiwa Reysol, formerly Hitachi, have secured Careca from Napoli and Gamba Osaka have signed CSKA Sofia's Kiril Metkov for a fee of around £250,000. He will be the first Bulgarian to play in Japan.

MIKE PLASTOW and MICHI ISHIJIMA

AUSTRALIA

Milan visit turns sour

PAUL TRIMBOLI'S comments probably reflected the views of most Australian soccer followers after Milan's visit.

Trimboli, 1993 National League Player of the year, said: "The public were badly misled.

"I feel very sorry for those fans who paid 45 dollars (approximately £20) expecting to see Rijkaard, Gullit and van Basten."

The three Dutch masters did not travel and Milan provided only brief glimpses of brilliance while beating Australia 1-0 in Sydney and, just 24 hours later, 2-0 in Melbourne. The games drew a combined attendance of 60,000.

The Melbourne crowd had another reason to feel deprived. Referee John Fraser ended the first half nine minutes early, and half-time stretched to 17 minutes.

Australia surrendered midfield in both encounters and had to endure immense pressure.

PAUL MOON

Marconi's fourth title

MARCONI captured their fourth Australian Championship when defeating holders Adelaide City 1-0 at Sydney's Parramatta Stadium in a drab Coca-Cola Soccer League Grand Final.

All hopes that the seven-goal thriller staged by the pair just after Christmas would be repeated quickly evaporated. Neither could master the bumpy surface, cut up by a Rugby League game two days earlier.

Andrew Harper netted the winner from a penalty in the 52nd minute, after a controversial decision by referee John Fraser.

For all but the opening weeks of the regular season, Marconi were involved in a fight with South Melbourne for the leadership. Ultimately, the Victorians finished five points clear with City a further dozen points adrift, and only qualifying for the end-of-season finals through a late surge.

South's subsequent collapse provided the finals with their major talking point. After being beaten 7-0 by Marconi, they were eliminated a week later when Adelaide City defeated them 3-1.

Most of the kudos for Marconi's triumph were bestowed upon former Australian national team coach Frank Arok, who arrived in the close season and with remarkable speed and single-minded efficiency moulded a group of talented but wayward individuals into a potent team.

The League Cup produced a similar success story for a coach with an even higher profile than Arok's. Dragoslav Sekularac arrived in Melbourne early in the New Year to take over struggling Heidelberg United. He steered them away from the relegation zone and captured only the second major trophy in the club's history.

The 2-1 win over Parramatta Eagles in the final was a bitter-sweet occasion for the latter's Yugoslav mentor Rale Rasic (Australia's coach at the 1974 World Cup finals). Before the game, Rasic admitted that Sekularac had been his boyhood hero and he remained in awe of him.

Four-way contest is planned

AN ANNUAL tournament may be held in Australia, between the host nation and three others — one each from Europe, Africa and Asia.

ASF chairman John Constantine said the round-robin series would be held for the first time in January.

"To establish an international programme is good for the public and good for our national team. We want to have it on a regular basis so it can be promoted properly," he said.

The dates and teams had yet to be determined.

January, June and July were the best dates for a tournament because most Australian players with commitments to European clubs were available at those times.

Constantine added that Greece, who have qualified for the World Cup for the first time, had agreed to play matches against Australia, but no details had been set.

NEW ZEALAND

Rumpus over Rufer

KIWI fans could be forgiven for questioning how seriously their national association took their recently terminated World Cup qualifying campaign.

Attempts to organise worthwhile warm-up matches before the vital clashes with Australia were unsuccessful, although NZFA chairman Harry Dods returned from a late mission to London claiming to have secured two matches with Sunderland.

Then they cancelled their trip due to injuries.

Even matches against Sunderland's reserve side would have offered better preparation than an experimental and ragged Fijian national selection (beaten 2-0 and 5-0) and the Southern Regional XI (defeated 3-0).

A failure to arrange games of consequence earlier and to obligate teams with water-tight contracts reflects the NZFA's sloppiness. Far more frustrating, as far as the fans were concerned, was the decision to face Australia without New Zealand's leading player, Wynton Rufer of Werder Bremen.

He declared himself available for the All Whites although the Australian fixtures coincided with the last two and, it transpired, crucial games of the Bundesliga season.

Under FIFA regulations, New Zealand had first call on Rufer. But the coach, Ian Marshall, decided that his late addition would disrupt his team's build-up. So Rufer stayed in Germany.

When Werder's title celebrations have subsided, he must surely reflect

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 13

MIDWEEK

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Kurosaki 2, 33, Alcindo 59)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Fukuda 2). **Att:** 15,050.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Aldrovani 89)
JEF UNITED 0. **Att:** 13,663.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Sawanobir 53)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Yamada 35, 41). **Att:** 35,5410.

GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Matsuura 31)
SANFREECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Cerny 10). **Att:** 19,351.
Sanfrecce won 4-3 on penalties

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Sawairi 15, 39, Yonekura 59)
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Totsuka 70). **Att:** 56,335.

WEEKEND

JEF UNITED 3 (Ejiri 32, Pavel 46, Niimura 57)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Goto 45). **Att:** 20,947.

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Miura 92)
GAMBA OSAKA 0. **Att:** 10,058.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Fukuda 61, Mizuuchi 66)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Aoshima 34). **Att:** 9,590.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Miura 1, 17, Diaz 21)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Aldrovani 15, Moner 82. **Att:** 11,734.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Kurosaki 36). **Att:** 25,131.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 20

MIDWEEK

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Watanabe 9, Aldrovani 71)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 0. **Att:** 14,886.

GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Kusaki 89, 109)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Hirakawa 41). **Att:** 19,247.

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Hanssen 86, Tazkeda 89)
JEF UNITED 1 (Niimura 13). **Att:** 10,054.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 3 (Aoshima 7, Oenoki 41, Hasegawa 47). **Att:** 13,923.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Jorginho 25, Egawa 49, Sawairi 61)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Motoyoshi 62). **Att:** 12,227.

WEEKEND

JEF UNITED 1 (Littbarski 4)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0. **Att:** 9,042.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 4 (Alcindo 18, 31, 57, Hasegawa 78). **Att:** 10,898.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Fukuda 84)
GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Nagashima 22, Isogai 46, Maisunami 73). **Att:** 8,953.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Hirakawa 42, Diaz 61)
VERDY KAWASAKI 0. **Att:** 53,376.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Sawanobori 21)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0. **Att:** 8,726.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 27

MIDWEEK

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Mochizuku 17, Mizuuchi 51)
JEF UNITED 3 (Pavel Hehak 39, 49, 71). **Att:** 8,514.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Santos 5, Alcindo 27, Koga 80)
VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Nagai 64, Takeda 74). **Att:** 15,777.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 3 (Edu 13, 84, Mukojima 68)
GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Flavio 34, 74). **Att:** 15,704.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maeda 56)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Otake o.g. 75, Hirano 94). **Att:** 15,328.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Bisconti 12, 25, Diaz 31)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Noh 47, 56). **Att:** 11,863.

WEEKEND

JEF UNITED 1 (Littbarski 57)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Diaz 50, 68, 85). **Att:** 10,116.

GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Muller 31, Flavio 48)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 4 (Santos 50, Alcindo 52, Hasegawa 63, Kurosaki 76). **Att:** 20,318.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Tsuruta 63, Sawairi 85, Goto 89)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Hasegawa 15). **Att:** 29,102.

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Miura 83)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0. **Att:** 10,078.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Katanosaka 24)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Watanabe 3, Sorimachi 94). **Att:** 13,680.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 4

MIDWEEK

JEF UNITED 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Kurosaki 29, Ishii 52). **Att:** 17,990.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 5 (Diaz 9, 47, 53, Bisconti 36, Kimura 39)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Mizuuchi 52). **Att:** 12,110.

GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Nagashima 14, Muller 31)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Angelo 89). **Att:** 16,506.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Moriyasu 39, Takagi 62)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0. **Att:** 9,709.

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Nagai 12)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Hanssen o.g. 48). **Att:** 10,067.
Verdy won 4-2 on pens

WEEKEND

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Kuosaki 18, Alcindo 34, 77)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Jinno 79). **Att:** 14,976.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 4 (Hasegawa 12, 89, Mukojima 18, Oenoki 69)
JEF UNITED 1 (Makino 74). **Att:** 9,290.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 0. **Att:** 15,398.
Verdy won 3-1 on pens

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Matsumoto 59)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0. **Att:** 9,013.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Goto 64, Pita 71)
GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Muller 51, 85, Nagashima 87). **Att:** 12,167.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 11

MIDWEEK

VERDY KAWASAKI 5 (Kitazawa 6, 13, Nagai 19, Hanssen 71, Miura 83)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0. **Att:** 10,225.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Ishii 9, Kurosaki 55). **Att:** 9,325.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Bisconti 31, Diaz 60, 79)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Hasegawa 66). **Att:** 12,199.

JEF UNITED 1 (Pavel Rehak 112)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0. **Att:** 8,941.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 4 (Kazama 19, Cerny 46, Matsuda 70, Takagi 91)
GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Matsunamai 23, Muller 43, 59). **Att:** 12,731.

WEEKEND

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Hasegawa 72)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Cerny 58, Takagi 99). **Att:** 15,055.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0
JEF UNITED 1 (Littbarski 89). **Att:** 26,370.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0. **Att:** 9,448.
Shimizu won 6-5 on pens

GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Nagashima 29, Muller 71)
VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Takeda 16, Kitazawa 40, Hashiratani 85). **Att:** 21,447.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maezono 47)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0. **Att:** 13,943.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 18

MIDWEEK

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Koizumi 14)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0. **Att:** 12,280.

JEF UNITED 0
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Azuma 22). **Att:** 9,113.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Watanabe 17, Iwai 3). **Att:** 8,905.

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Takeda 35, Hanssen 66)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0. **Att:** 10,100.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Hasegawa 68)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Edu 61, Tajima 84). **Att:** 14,673.

J.LEAGUE
First stage — final

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kashima Antlers	18	13	5	41	18	26
Verdy Kawasaki	18	12	6	29	21	24
Yokohama Marinos	18	11	7	29	24	22
Shimizu S Pulse	18	10	8	28	25	20
JEF United	18	9	9	26	23	18
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	18	9	9	23	24	18
Yokohama Flugels	18	8	10	24	21	16
Gamba Osaka	18	8	10	27	31	16
Nagoya Grampus Eight	18	7	11	21	38	14
Urawa Red Diamonds	18	3	15	11	34	6

upon his international career, now probably ended without his making anywhere near the impact befitting a player of such ability.

Not that his presence in Auckland and Melbourne would have made that much difference.

Even with Pele in his prime, New Zealand would have struggled to match an impressive Australian line-up, who won 4-0 on aggregate.

● MEMBERS of last year's National League had mixed fortunes in the first phase of the new Winfield Superclub Championship.

Only four — Waitakere City, Waikato United, North Shore United and Napier City Rovers — qualified for the next round.

They are joined by Wanganui Athletic, Wellington Olympic, Christchurch Rangers and Roslyn-Wakari in a round-robin in which all teams play each other once. Four of the clubs will have four home games, and the other four will have only three.

The top four qualify for the final phase.

The biggest surprise to date has been the form of Wanganui Athletic, a club with a most unimpressive pedigree before this season.

PAUL MOON

INDIA

JIRI PESEK, Czech coach of the Indian soccer team, has been given a six-month extension to his contract, despite a disastrous run of results.

India took only three points from their eight games in Group D of the World Cup's Asian qualifying system, and conceded 22 goals.

Pesek complained that too many of his players lacked fitness, but he has been strongly criticised since taking over in December, and his new deal with the All-India Federation was a surprise.

Several leading players from Calcutta's East Bengal club were not selected for the World Cup squad, but had some consolation by winning the Wai Wai Trophy in Kathmandu, Nepal.

They defeated Ranipokhari of Nepal 1-0 in the final, with a goal by Sanjoy Majhi — then were fined 10,000 rupees for taking part without AIFF permission.

Border Security Force, the other Indian club in the nine-team league-and-knockout event, were fined the same sum.

ITI Sports Club beat Union Bank 2-1 to win the Stafford Cup in Bangalore.

G.C. DAS

FIJI — Life ban on top scorer

FIJIAN Ravuama Madigi marked his farewell to senior soccer by taking the top scorer's award and helping Ba win the Battle of the Giants Tournament — the first major event of the 1993 domestic season.

A week after the 1-0 victory over Labasa in the final at Rewa, eight-goal Madigi was suspended sine die for his part in a shoplifting spree during the national team's tour of New Zealand in May.

He has now turned to rugby union, but will be sadly missed by Ba. His suspension seems to have cost them any chance of catching League leaders Nadroga.

HONG KONG

Three out of four for Eastern

EASTERN gained their third major honour of the 1992-93 Hong Kong season when defeating Ernest Borel 1-0 in the FA Cup Final.

Earlier they had won the Challenge Shield and clinched the League title. Only the Viceroy Cup eluded them.

A 75th-minute goal by midfielder Tam Siu-wai sank Borel in a largely mundane game.

There was further disappointment for the Borel players immediately after the game, when the club's major sponsor announced they would be diverting their financial backing to sport in Macau and on the Chinese mainland.

The Borel players forced to seek new clubs include former Coventry striker Keith Thompson, but their problems are small compared with their counterparts at Michelotti, who are owed more than $100,000.

One of them, former QPR and Southampton midfielder Tony Sealy, has at least secured his short-term future, signing for Eastern. He replaces Dale Tempest, who failed to agree terms for next season.

Tempest is eager to stay in Hong Kong and, according to rumour, may join South China to fill the void left by Billy Whitehurst's return to England.

Signing...Sealey has joined Eastern.

Whitehurst played a leading role in South China's Viceroy Cup success but scored only two goals, and was released.

Hong Kong's hopes of a trip to the World Cup next year flickered briefly, only to end with ignominy.

Five points were gained from the opening three games before South Korea inflicted a 3-0 defeat, and the remaining four games were all lost by an increasingly demoralised side, who endured a series of disruptive team changes.

The retiring Victor Hui's successor as Hong Kong FA chairman faces a herculean task.

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1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland 0-6
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland 3-1
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland 2-2
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal 0-0
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia 0-0
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy 0-0
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta 3-0
19.12.92 Malta v Italy 1-2
24.01.93 Malta v Portugal 0-1
17.02.93 Scotland v Malta 3-0
24.02.93 Portugal v Italy 1-3
24.03.93 Italy v Malta 6-1
31.03.93 Switzerland v Portugal 1-1
14.04.93 Italy v Estonia 2-0
17.04.93 Malta v Switzerland 0-2
28.04.93 Portugal v Scotland 5-0
01.05.93 Switzerland v Italy 1-0
12.05.93 Estonia v Malta 0-1
19.05.93 Estonia v Scotland 0-3
02.06.93 Scotland v Estonia 3-1
19.06.93 Portugal v Malta 4-0
05.09.93 Estonia v Portugal
08.09.93 Scotland v Switzerland
22.09.93 Estonia v Italy
13.10.93 Portugal v Switzerland
13.10.93 Italy v Scotland
10.11.93 Portugal v Estonia
17.11.93 Italy v Portugal
17.11.93 Malta v Scotland
17.11.93 Switzerland v Estonia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	7	5	2	0	18	4	12
Italy	7	4	2	1	15	6	10
Portugal	6	3	2	1	12	4	8
Scotland	7	3	2	2	10	9	8
Malta	9	1	1	7	3	21	3
Estonia	6	0	1	5	1	15	1

GROUP 2

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino 10-0
23.09.92 Norway v Holland 2-1
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey 1-0
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway 0-2
14.10.92 England v Norway 1-1
14.10.92 Holland v Poland 2-2
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino 4-1
18.11.92 England v Turkey 4-0
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland 1-3
17.02.93 England v San Marino 6-0
24.02.93 Holland v Turkey 3-1
10.03.93 San Marino v Turkey 0-0
24.03.93 Holland v San Marino 6-0
31.03.93 Turkey v England 0-2
28.04.93 England v Holland 2-2
28.04.93 Norway v Turkey 3-1
28.04.93 Poland v San Marino 1-0
19.05.93 San Marino v Poland 0-3
29.05.93 Poland v England 1-1
02.06.93 Norway v England 2-0
09.06.93 Holland v Norway 0-0
08.09.93 England v Poland
22.09.93 Norway v Poland
22.09.93 San Marino v Holland
13.10.93 Holland v England
13.10.93 Poland v Norway
27.10.93 Turkey v Poland
10.11.93 Turkey v Norway
16.11.93 San Marino v England
17.11.93 Poland v Holland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	7	5	2	0	20	3	12
England	7	3	3	1	16	6	9
Holland	7	3	3	1	17	8	9
Poland	5	3	2	0	8	3	8
Turkey	8	1	1	6	7	17	3
San Marino	8	0	1	7	1	32	1

GROUP 3

22.04.92 Spain v Albania 3-0
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania .. 2-2
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania 2-0
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania 1-0
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania 1-2
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark 0-0
09.09.92 Rep. of Ireland v Latvia 4-0
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania 3-0
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain 0-0
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark 0-0
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain 0-0
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia 1-1
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia 1-1
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark .. 0-1
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia 5-0
17.02.93 Albania v Northern Ireland 1-2
24.02.93 Spain v Lithuania 5-0
31.03.93 Denmark v Spain 1-0
31.03.93 Rep. of Ireland v N. Ireland 3-0
14.04.93 Denmark v Latvia 2-0
14.04.93 Lithuania v Albania 3-1
28.04.93 Rep. of Ireland v Denmark 1-1
28.04.93 Spain v Northern Ireland 3-1
15.05.93 Latvia v Albania 0-0
25.05.93 Lithuania v Northern Ireland .. 0-1
26.05.93 Albania v Rep. of Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Denmark v Albania 4-0
02.06.93 Latvia v Northern Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Lithuania v Spain 0-2
09.06.93 Latvia v Rep. of Ireland 0-2
16.06.93 Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland 0-1
25.08.93 Denmark v Lithuania
08.09.93 Albania v Denmark
08.09.93 Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania
08.09.93 Northern Ireland v Latvia
22.09.93 Albania v Spain
13.10.93 Denmark v Northern Ireland
13.10.93 Rep. of Ireland v Spain
17.11.93 N. Ireland v Rep. of Ireland
17.11.93 Spain v Denmark

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep. of Ireland	9	6	3	0	15	2	15
Spain	9	5	3	1	18	2	13
Denmark	8	4	4	0	9	1	12
N. Ireland	9	4	2	3	11	11	10
Lithuania	10	2	3	5	8	15	7
Latvia	11	0	5	6	4	19	5
Albania	10	1	2	7	5	20	4

GROUP 4

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus 1-0
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands 7-0
20.05.92 Romania v Wales 5-1
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium 0-3
18.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus 0-2
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 1-2
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands 6-0
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands 4-0
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania 1-0
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales 0-1
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia ... 1-1
18.11.92 Belgium v Wales 2-0
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania 1-4
13.02.93 Cyprus v Belgium 0-3
24.03.93 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia 1-1
31.03.93 Wales v Belgium 2-0
14.04.93 Romania v Cyprus 2-1
25.04.93 Cyprus v Faroe Islands 3-1
28.04.93 Czechoslovakia v Wales 1-1
22.05.93 Belgium v Faroe Islands 3-0
02.06.93 Czechoslovakia v Romania ... 5-2
06.06.93 Faroe Islands v Wales 0-3
16.06.93 Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia 0-3
08.09.93 Wales v Czechoslovakia
08.09.93 Faroe Islands v Romania
13.10.93 Romania v Belgium
13.10.93 Wales v Cyprus
27.10.93 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus
17.11.93 Wales v Romania
17.11.93 Belgium v Czechoslovakia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	8	7	0	1	15	3	14
Romania	7	4	1	2	21	10	9
Czechoslovakia	7	3	3	1	16	7	9
Wales	7	4	1	2	14	8	9
Cyprus	8	2	1	5	8	13	5
Faroe Islands	9	0	0	9	1	34	0

GROUP 5

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland 1-0
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland 1-2
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary 0-3
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece 0-1
14.10.92 Russia v Iceland 1-0
28.10.92 Russia v Luxembourg 2-0
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary 0-0
17.02.93 Greece v Luxembourg 2-0
31.03.93 Hungary v Greece 0-1
14.04.93 Luxembourg v Russia 0-4
28.04.93 Russia v Hungary 3-0
20.05.93 Luxembourg v Iceland 1-1
23.05.93 Russia v Greece 1-1
02.06.93 Iceland v Russia 1-1
16.06.93 Iceland v Hungary 2-0
08.09.93 Hungary v Russia
08.09.93 Iceland v Luxembourg
12.10.93 Luxembourg v Greece
27.10.93 Hungary v Luxembourg
17.11.93 Greece v Russia

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RUSSIA	6	4	2	0	12	2	10
GREECE	6	4	2	0	6	1	10
Iceland	7	2	2	3	6	6	6
Hungary	6	1	1	4	4	8	3
Luxembourg	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

Russia & Greece qualify for finals.

GROUP 6

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria 0-3
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France 2-0
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden 0-1
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria 2-0
14.10.92 France v Austria 2-0
28.10.92 Austria v Israel 5-2
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden 1-3
14.11.92 France v Finland 2-1
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria 0-2
17.02.93 Israel v France 0-4
27.03.93 Austria v France 0-1
14.04.93 Austria v Bulgaria 3-1
28.04.93 France v Sweden 2-1
28.04.93 Bulgaria v Finland 2-0
12.05.93 Bulgaria v Israel 2-2
13.05.93 Finland v Austria 3-1
19.05.93 Sweden v Austria 1-0
02.06.93 Sweden v Israel 5-0
16.06.93 Finland v Israel 0-0
22.08.93 Sweden v France
25.08.93 Austria v Finland
08.09.93 Finland v France
08.09.93 Bulgaria v Sweden
13.10.93 France v Israel
13.10.93 Bulgaria v Austria
13.10.93 Sweden v Finland
27.20.93 Israel v Austria
10.11.93 Austria v Sweden
10.11.93 Israel v Finland
17.11.93 France v Bulgaria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	6	5	0	1	13	3	10
France	6	5	0	1	11	4	10
Bulgaria	7	4	1	2	12	7	9
Austria	6	2	0	4	9	10	4
Finland	6	1	1	4	4	9	3
Israel	7	0	2	5	5	21	2

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi 3-1
25.10.92 Burundi v Ghana 1-0
20.12.92 Ghana v Algeria 2-0
17.01.93 Burundi v Algeria 0-0
31.01.93 Ghana v Burundi 1-0
26.02.93 Algeria v Ghana 2-1

★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALGERIA	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Ghana	4	2	0	2	4	3	4
Burundi	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

GROUP B

18.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland 5-0
25.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire 1-0
10.01.93 Zaire v Cameroon 1-2
17.01.93 Swaziland v Cameroon 0-0
29.02.93 Cameroon v Zaire 0-0

★ *Liberia withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Swaziland	3	1	1	1	1	5	3
Zaire	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Not played: *Zaire v Swaziland*

GROUP C

11.10.92 Egypt v Angola 1-0
11.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo 1-0
25.10.92 Togo v Egypt 1-4
20.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt 2-1
10.01.93 Angola v Zimbabwe 1-1
17.01.93 Togo v Zimbabwe 1-2
18.01.93 Angola v Egypt 0-0
31.01.93 Egypt v Togo 3-0
31.01.93 Zimbabwe v Angola 2-1
28.02.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 2-1
Result declared void after protest
28.02.93 Togo v Angola 0-1
Replay *(in Lyons)*
15.04.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 0-0

★ *Sierra Leone withdrew, Togo replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZIMBABWE	6	4	2	0	8	4	10
Egypt	6	3	2	1	9	3	8
Angola	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Togo	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

Not played: *Angola v Togo*

GROUP D

10.10.92 Nigeria v South Africa 4-0
25.10.92 South Africa v Congo 1-0
20.12.92 Congo v Nigeria 0-1
17.01.93 South Africa v Nigeria 0-0
31.01.93 Congo v South Africa 0-1
27.02.93 Nigeria v Congo 2-0

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
South Africa	4	2	1	1	2	4	5
Congo	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

GROUP E

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana 6-0
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast 0-0
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger 0-1
17.01.93 Botswana v Ivory Coast 0-0
31.01.93 Ivory Coast v Niger 1-0
28.02.93 Niger v Botswana 2-1

★ *Sudan withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IVORY COAST	4	2	2	0	7	0	6
Niger	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Botswana	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

GROUP F

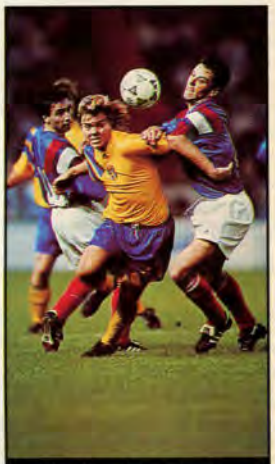
11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia 5-0
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin 5-1
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia 0-0
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco 0-1
20.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco 1-1
20.12.92 Ethiopia v Benin 3-1
17.01.93 Ethiopia v Morocco 0-1
17.01.93 Benin v Tunisia 0-5
31.01.93 Tunisia v Ethiopia 3-0
31.01.93 Morocco v Benin 5-0
28.02.93 Benin v Ethiopia 1-0
28.02.93 Morocco v Tunisia 0-0

★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	6	4	2	0	13	1	10
Tunisia	6	3	3	0	14	2	9
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	3	11	3
Benin	6	1	0	5	3	19	2

GROUP G

11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique 3-1
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal 0-1
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal 3-2
17.02.93 Mozambique v Gabon 1-1
30.01.93 Senegal v Mozambique 6-1



Brolin of Sweden escapes Le Guen of France.

Dean Saunders celebrates scoring for Wales against the Faroe Isles.

27.02.93 Senegal v Gabon 1-0
★ *Mauritania withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SENEGAL	4	3	0	1	10	4	6
Gabon	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Mozambique	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

GROUP H

11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia 3-0
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia 0-4
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia 2-0
17.01.93 Namibia v Madagascar 0-1
30.01.93 Zambia v Namibia 4-0
27.02.93 Zambia v Madagascar 3-1
★ *Burkina Faso withdrew and were replaced by Namibia. Tanzania also withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Madagascar	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Namibia	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

GROUP I

20.12.92 Guinea v Kenya 4-0
27.02.93 Kenya v Guinea 2-0
★ *Gambia & Mali withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GUINEA	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Kenya	2	1	0	1	2	4	2

Second Round
GROUP A

16.04.93 Algeria v Ivory Coast 1-1
02.05.93 Ivory Coast v Nigeria 2-1
03.07.93 Nigeria v Algeria 4-1
18.07.93 Ivory Coast v Algeria 1-0
25.09.93 Nigeria v Ivory Coast
08.10.93 Algeria v Nigeria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Nigeria	2	1	0	1	5	3	2
Algeria	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

GROUP B

18.04.93 Morocco v Senegal 1-0
04.07.93 Zambia v Morocco 2-1
17.07.93 Senegal v Morocco 1-3
08.08.93 Senegal v Zambia
26.09.93 Zambia v Senegal
10.10.93 Morocco v Zambia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Zambia	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Senegal	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

GROUP C

18.04.93 Cameroon v Guinea 3-1
02.05.93 Guinea v Zimbabwe 3-0
04.07.93 Zimbabwe v Cameroon 1-0
18.07.93 Guinea v Cameroon 0-1
26.09.93 Zimbabwe v Guinea
10.10.93 Cameroon v Zimbabwe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	2	0	1	4	2	4
Guinea	3	1	0	2	4	4	2
Zimbabwe	2	1	0	1	1	3	2

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Top two in Group A play (home & away) against top two in Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
25.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 2-1
25.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda 2-1
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 0-1
St Vincent v Cuba★
★ *Cuba withdrew.*
St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
24.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
25.05.92 Surinam v Guyana 1-1
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados 3-0
Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st rnd

First Round
CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras 0-0
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador 0-5
23.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua 5-1
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica 1-0
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama 5-1
El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92 Antigua v Bermuda 0-3
05.07.92 Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica 1-2
04.07.92 Bermuda v Antigua 2-1
02.08.92 Surinam v St Vincent 0-0
16.08.92 Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago 1-1
30.08.92 St Vincent v Surinam 2-1
Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd rnd

Second Round
GROUP A

08.11.92 Costa Rica v Honduras 2-3
08.11.92 St Vincent v Mexico 0-4
15.11.92 Mexico v Honduras 2-0
15.11.92 St Vincent v Costa Rica 0-1
22.11.92 Mexico v Costa Rica 4-0
22.11.92 St Vincent v Honduras 0-4
28.11.92 Honduras v St Vincent 4-0
29.11.92 Costa Rica v Mexico 2-0
05.12.92 Honduras v Costa Rica 2-1
06.12.92 Mexico v St Vincent 11-0
13.12.92 Costa Rica v St Vincent 5-0
13.12.92 Honduras v Mexico 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	4	1	1	22	3	9
HONDURAS	6	4	1	1	14	6	9
Costa Rica	6	3	0	3	11	9	6
St. Vincent	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final rnd

GROUP B

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada 1-1
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador 1-0
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada 1-1
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica 1-0
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda 4-1
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador 2-3
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda 3-2
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda 4-2
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador 0-2
06.12.92 Bermuda v Canada 0-0
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	2	3	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final rnd

Final Round

04.04.93 El Salvador v Mexico 2-1
04.04.93 Honduras v Canada 2-2
11.04.93 Mexico v Honduras 3-0
11.04.93 Canada v El Salvador 2-0
18.04.93 Canada v Honduras 3-1
18.04.93 Mexico v El Salvador 3-1
25.04.93 Mexico v Canada 4-0
25.04.93 Honduras v El Salvador 2-0
02.05.93 Honduras v Mexico 1-4
02.05.93 El Salvador v Canada 1-2
09.05.93 Canada v Mexico 1-2
09.05.93 El Salvador v Honduras 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	5	0	1	17	5	10
Canada	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
El Salvador	6	2	0	4	6	11	4
Honduras	6	1	1	4	7	13	3

Mexico qualify for finals, Canada qualify for play-off with Australia.

Play-off
1st leg
31.07.93 Canada v Australia 2-1
2nd leg
15.08.93 Australia v Canada

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/ Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.*

Algeria's El Ouezani gets in a shot against the Ivory Coast.

GROUP A
Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay 0-0
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina 0-1
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay

GROUP B
Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.

18.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil 0-0
18.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia 1-7
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil 2-0
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay 0-1
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador 0-0
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil 1-5
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivia	2	2	0	0	9	1	4
Brazil	3	1	1	1	5	3	3
Uruguay	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Ecuador	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Venezuela	3	0	0	3	2	13	0

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia .. 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands .. 6-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

Play-off
1st leg
30.05.93 New Zealand v Australia 0-1
2nd leg
06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand 3-0
Australia won 4-0 on agg and meet Canada in a play-off . See CONCACAF section for details.

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲ 1-1
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲ 0-5
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲ 1-1
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲ 5-1
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲ 0-3
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲ 1-6
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲ 0-8
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲ 1-0
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲ 3-1
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲ 1-0
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼ 1-1
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼ 3-0
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼ 4-0
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼ 0-3
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼ 4-1
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼ 3-0
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼ 4-0
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼ 1-0
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼ 0-5
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼ 2-1
▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAQ	8	6	1	1	28	4	13
China	8	6	0	2	18	4	12
Yemen	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Jordan	8	2	3	3	12	15	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	2	36	0

GROUP B

23.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲ 0-0
23.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲ 0-2
25.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲ 0-0
25.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲ 6-0
27.06.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲ 2-1
27.06.93 Iran v Syria ▲ 1-1
02.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼ 0-1
02.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼ 8-1
04.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼ 2-1
04.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼ 0-6
06.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼ 1-7
06.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼ 1-1
▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria
★ *Myanmar (formerly Burma) withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAN	6	3	3	0	15	2	9
Syria	6	3	3	0	14	4	9
Oman	6	2	2	2	10	5	6
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	3	31	0

GROUP C

09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲ 3-1
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲ 3-0
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲ ... 2-1
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲ 2-3
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲ 4-1
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Indonesia v Singapore ▲ 0-2
18.04.93 Qatar v North Korea ▲ 1-2
24.04.93 Indonesia v Qatar ▼ 1-4
24.04.93 Vietnam v North Korea ▼ 0-1
26.04.93 Singapore v North Korea ▼ ... 1-3
26.04.93 Vietnam v Qatar ▼ 0-4
28.04.93 Indonesia v North Korea ▼ 1-2
28.04.93 Singapore v Vietnam ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Singapore v Qatar ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Indonesia v Vietnam ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 Singapore v Indonesia ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 North Korea v Qatar ▼ 2-2
▲ in Doha, Qatar
▼ in Singapore

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	19	6	15
Qatar	8	5	1	2	22	8	11
Singapore	8	5	0	3	12	12	10
Indonesia	8	1	0	7	6	19	2
Vietnam	8	1	0	7	4	18	2

GROUP D

07.05.93 Lebanon v India ▲ 2-2
07.05.93 Hong Kong v Bahrain ▲ 2-1
09.05.93 Bahrain v South Korea ▲ 0-0
09.05.93 Lebanon v Hong Kong ▲ 2-2
11.05.93 India v Hong Kong ▲ 1-2
11.05.93 Lebanon v South Korea ▲ 0-1
13.05.93 Lebanon v Bahrain ▲ 0-0
13.05.93 India v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Hong Kong v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Bahrain v India ▲ 2-1
05.06.93 South Korea v Hong Kong ▼ 3-0
05.06.93 Bahrain v Lebanon ▼ 0-0
07.06.93 India v Bahrain ▼ 0-3
07.06.93 South Korea v Lebanon ▼ 2-0
09.06.93 Hong Kong v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
09.06.93 South Korea v India ▼ 7-0
11.06.93 India v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
11.06.93 Bahrain v Hong Kong ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 South Korea v Bahrain ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 Hong Kong v India ▼ 1-3
▲ in Beirut, Lebanon
▼ in Seoul, South Korea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	22	0	15
Bahrain	8	3	3	2	9	6	9
Lebanon	8	2	4	2	8	9	8
Hong Kong	8	2	1	5	8	18	5
India	8	1	1	6	8	22	3

GROUP E

01.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▲ 6-0
01.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▲ 1-1
03.05.93 Kuwait v Macao ▲ 10-1
03.05.93 Malaysia v Saudi Arabia ▲ 1-1
05.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▲ 0-0
05.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▲ 9-0
14.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▼ 0-2
14.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▼ 8-0
16.05.93 Macao v Kuwait ▼ 0-8
16.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Malaysia ▼ 3-0
18.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▼ 5-0
18.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▼ 2-0
▲ in Kuala Lumpur
▼ in Riyadh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAUDI ARABIA	6	4	2	0	20	1	10
Kuwait	6	3	2	1	21	4	8
Malaysia	6	2	2	3	16	7	6
Macao	6	0	0	6	1	46	0

GROUP F

08.04.93 Japan v Thailand ▲ 1-0
08.04.93 Sri Lanka v UAE ▲ 0-4
11.04.93 Japan v Bangladesh ▲ 8-0
11.04.93 Thailand v Sri Lanka ▲ 1-0
13.04.93 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh ▲ 0-1
13.04.93 UAE v Thailand ▲ 1-0
15.04.93 Japan v Sri Lanka ▲ 5-0
15.04.93 UAE v Bangladesh ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Japan v UAE ▲ 2-0
18.04.93 Thailand v Bangladesh ▲ 4-1
28.04.93 Thailand v Japan ▼ 0-1
28.04.93 UAE v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
30.04.93 Bangladesh v Japan ▼ 1-4
30.04.93 Thailand v UAE ▼ 1-2
03.05.93 Bangladesh v UAE ▼ 0-7
03.05.93 Sri Lanka v Thailand ▼ 0-3
05.05.93 Bangladesh v Thailand ▼ 1-4
05.05.93 Sri Lanka v Japan ▼ 0-6
07.05.93 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
07.05.93 UAE v Japan ▼ 1-1
▲ in Tokyo, Japan
▼ in Dubai, UAE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JAPAN	8	7	1	0	28	2	15
UAE	8	6	1	1	19	4	13
Thailand	8	4	0	4	13	7	8
Bangladesh	8	2	0	6	7	28	4
Sri Lanka	8	0	0	8	0	26	0

Second Round

15.10.93 North Korea v Iraq
15.10.93 Saudi Arabia v Japan
16.10.93 Iran v South Korea
18.10.93 North Korea v Saudi Arabia
18.10.93 Japan v Iran
19.10.93 Iraq v South Korea
21.10.93 North Korea v Japan
22.10.93 Iran v Iraq
22.10.93 South Korea v Saudi Arabia
24.10.93 Iraq v Saudi Arabia
25.10.93 Japan v South Korea
25.10.93 Iran v North Korea
28.10.93 South Korea v North Korea
28.10.93 Saudi Arabia v Iran
28.10.93 Iraq v Japan
● *all matches in Doha, Qatar.*

INTERNATIONAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Jun 19 = Seoul — friendly
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Suh Jung-won 55)
EGYPT 2 (Izath 22, 54)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

Jun 20 = Bamako — friendly
MALI 0
SENEGAL 2 (M. Diallo 44, 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

Jun 22 = Aix — friendly
ALGERIA 1 (Kaoua 81)
GUINEA 1 (Toure 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Plosi (Fra)

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Jun 25 = Tehran — WC Asian gp B
OMAN 0
SYRIA 0
Att: 80,000.

Jun 25 = Tehran — WC Asian gp B
IRAN 6 (Hamid Estili 18, Ali Modir Rousta 38, 46, 50, 75, Ali Dali 42)
TAIWAN 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 80,000.

Jun 25 = Zagreb — friendly
CROATIA 3 (Suker 13, Adzic 47, Bicanic 81)
UKRAINE 1 (Gushin 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Jamsek (Sln)
Croatia: Ladic — Zivkovic, Pavlicic, Vulic (Mladenovic), Jarni — Person, Adzic (Celic), Mise, Boban — Boksic (Bicanic), Suker (Spehar).
Ukraine: Kovtyn — Popov, Diryavka, Mikhailenko (Topchiev), Beyzenar — Polunin, Pohlebayev, Shkapenko, Gusev (Kovalets) — Gritsina (Gushin), Konovalov.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

Jun 27 = Tehran — WC Asian gp B
OMAN 2 (Youssef Saleh 29, Youness Amman 35)
TAIWAN 1 (Cheng Chyo-ming 79)
HT: 2-0. **HT:** 50,000.

Jun 27 = Tehran — WC Asian gp B
IRAN 1 (Ali Modir Roosea 64)
SYRIA 1 (Abdul Latif Melloo 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 80,000.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

Jun 29 = Seoul — friendly
SOUTH KOREA 0
EGYPT 1 (Reda Abdelaal 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Jul 2 = Damascus — WC Asian gp B
SYRIA 8 (Abdullatif Helou 2, 70, Jamal Kazem 6, Mounaf Ramadan 13, Ali Cheikh Dib 17 pen, Mohammad Afash 29, 45, Nizar Mahrous 82)
TAIWAN 1 (Chen Jiun-ming 37)
HT: 6-1. **Att:** 40,000.

Jul 2 = Damascus — WC Asian gp B
IRAN 1 (Hamid Derarshan Forkoush 35)
OMAN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Jul 3 = Lagos — African Nations qual
NIGERIA 4 (Okcha 14, Yekini 25, 38, Amokachi 40)
ALGERIA 1 (Tasfaout 5)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Diramba (Gab)

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Jul 4 = Damascus — WC Asian gp B
SYRIA 2 (Nizar Mahrous 45, Moustafa Kadir 63 pen)
OMAN 1 (Abdulla Hamdan 58)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Nasri Adbul Azim (Egy)

Jul 4 = Damascus — WC Asian gp B
IRAN 6 (Hamid Derarshan Forkoush 7, Majid Namajo Motlagh 15 pen, Ali Daei 18, 47, Seyed Mehdi Abtahi 21, Hamid Reza Estili 73)
TAIWAN 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Mohamad Nasri Abdulla (Malay)

Jul 4 = Harare = African Nations qual
ZIMBABWE 1 (Sawu 86)
CAMEROON 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000.

Jul 4 = Lusaka — African Nations qual
ZAMBIA 2 (Kalusha Bwalya 60, Johnston Bwalya 67)
MOROCCO 1 (Rachidi Daoudi 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Ali (Tan)

Jul 4 = Moanda — friendly
GABON 0
MALI 2 (S. Traore 44, Diop 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** M. Mbabiri (Gab).

TUESDAY, JULY 6

Jul 6 = Damascus — WC Asian gp B
IRAN 1 (Hamid Derarshan Forkoush 15)
SYRIA 1 (Moustafa Kadir 89 pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Jul 6 = Damascus — WC Asian gp B
OMAN 7 (Yousif Saleh 7, Tayib Abdolinoor 14, Rashid Abdulla 40, 80, Matar Khaleef 56, Nabeel Mubarak 71, Abdulla Hamdan 83)
TAIWAN 1 (Chang Wu-tsung 63)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 20,000.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Jul 10 = Dallas — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp A
UNITED STATES 1 (Wynalda 67)
JAMAICA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,642. **Ref:** Ulloa (CR)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Kooiman, Clavijo, Harkes (Lalas 71), Dooley, Henderson, Jones, Ramos, Wegerle, Wynalda (Kinnear 84).
Jamaica: Barrett — Sewell, Dixon (Earle 75), Corbett, Brown, Smith, Hewitt, Anglin, Wright, Davis (Reid 71), Boyd.

Jul 10 = Dallas — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp A
HONDURAS 5 (Gayle 25, Benneth 51, 69 pen, 83, Pineda 54)
PANAMA 1 (Julio 30)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 11,642.
Honduras: Cruz — G Calix, Castro, Garcia, Fu Lanza, Garay, Espinoza (Suazo 77), Gayle, Pineda (Calix 73), Dolmo Flores, Benneth.
Panama: James — Delgado, Poyatos, Lozada, Julio, Bernal (Atencio 75), Piggott, Mendez, Mendieta, A Dely Valdez, Clark.

Jul 10 = Khartoum — African Nations qual
SUDAN 1
ETHIOPIA 0
HT: 0-0.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Jul 11 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp B
MEXICO 9 (Zaguinho 10, 21, 38, 53, 75, 83, 88, Ramirez 40, Hernandez 89)
MARTINIQUE 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Alvarado (ES)
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez, Nava, Ramirez Perales, Suarez, Rodriguez, Ambriz, J Ramirez (Coyote 46), Mora, Salvador (A Garcia 46), Zaguinho.
Martinique: Lagier — Bellemare, Tinmar, Zaire, Coridon, Borval, Valide (Narcisse 76), Sophie, Honore (Emica 63), Modestin.

Jul 11 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp B
CANADA 1 (Dasovic 42)
COSTA RICA 1 (R. Myers 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000.
Canada: Forrest — Miller, Watson, Samuel, Limniatis, Scott (Thompson 78), Mobilio (Aunger 75), Dasovic, Hooper, Berdusco, Bunbury.
Costa Rica: Lonnis — Parks (R Meyers 55), Marin, Mata, Delgado, M Meyers, Cayasso, Castro, Murillo (Solano 60), Guthrie, Peynado.

Jul 11 = African Nations qual
LESOTHO 1
MOZAMBIQUE 1
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000.

Jul 11 = Lusaka — African Nations qual
ZAMBIA 3 (Joel Bwalya 1, K Bwalya 66 pen, Makwaza 71)
SOUTH AFRICA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000.

Jul 11 = Cotonou — African Nations qual
BENIN 0
CAMEROON 3 (Tchami 12, David Embe 21, Loga 90)
HT: 0-1.

Jul 11 = Libreville — African Nations qual
GABON 3 (Ndong Nze 15, Nzamba 75, Makaya 90)
NIGER 0
HT: 1-0.

Jul 11 = Dakar — African Nations qual
SENEGAL 1 (M. B. Mangane 14)
SIERRA LEONE 1 (Mohamed Mansareh 30)
HT: 1-1.

Jul 11 = Kinshasa — African Nations qual
ZAIRE 0
KENYA 1 (P. Nachok 30)
HT: 0-1.

Jul 11 = Harare — African Nations qual
ZIMBABWE 2 (Max Lunga 37, Agent Sawu 63)
MAURITIUS 0
HT: 1-0.

Jul 11 = Bujumbura — African Nations qual
BURUNDI 2 (Ngando 16, 86 pen)
GUINEA 2 (Titi Camara 58, Morlaye Soumah 70)
HT: 1-0.

Jul 11 = Alexandria — African Nations qual
EGYPT 1 (Hamada 67)
MOROCCO 1 (Laghrissi 22)
HT: 0-1.

Jul 11 = Bamako — African Nations qual
MALI 2
MALAWI 1
HT: 1-0.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

Jul 14 = Dallas — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp A
UNITED STATES 2 (Wynalda 69, Dooley 74)
PANAMA 1 (Piggott 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,771. **Ref:** Parisius (Sur)
US: Meola — Lalas, Kooiman, Dooley, Clavijo, Ramos, Jones, Armstrong, Henderson, Vermes (Wegerle 46; Kinnear 77), Wynalda.
Panama: James — Clark, Delgado, Medina (Diaz 88), Lozada, Piggott, Mendez (Atencio 80), Poyatos, Julio, Dely Valdes, Mendieta.

Jul 14 = Dallas — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp A
JAMAICA 3 (Jarrett 28, Davis 48, Boyd 79)
HONDURAS 1 (Benneth 19)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Brizio (Mex)
Jamaica: Barrett — Gaynor, Sewell (Hamilton 74), Corbett, D Smith — Anglin, Reid, Wright, Brown — Davis, Jarrett (Boyd 46).
Honduras: Cruz — Castro, Ulloa (Suazo 72), Fu Lanza, Garay — Garcia, Espinoza, Pineda, Gayle Alarcon (Rochez 59) — Dolmo Flores, Benneth.

Jul 14 = Rio de Janeiro — friendly
BRAZIL 2 (Branco 82, Bebeto 89)
PARAGUAY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000.
Brazil: Taffarel — Jorginho (Cafu), Ricardo Rocha (Valber), Marcio Santos, Branco — Mauro Silva, Luiz Henrique, Rai, Zinho (Elivelton) — Bebeto, Careca (Evair).
Paraguay: Guerrero — Barrios, Rivarolla, Ayala, Suarez, Acuna, Gamarra, Gabriel Gonzalez, Ferreira (Sotelo), Mendoza (Torres), Cabanas.

Jul 14 = Montevideo — friendly
URUGUAY 3 (Fonseca 9, 32, Moran 27)
PERU 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Bello (Uru)
Uruguay: Siboldi — Herrera, Sanchez (Rodriguez), Kanapkis, Cabrera (De los Santos) — Ostolaza, Moran, Zalazar, Francescoli (Aguilera) — Sosa, Fonseca (Poyet).
Peru: Miranda — M Rodriguez (Charum), Soto, Reynoso, Percy Olivares — Barco, Del Solar, Palacios, Valencia (Segarra) — Gonzalez (Carty), Saenz (Muchatrigo).

THURSDAY, JULY 15

Jul 15 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp B
CANADA 2 (Aunger 25, Bunbury 44)
MARTINIQUE 2 (Gertrudes 75, Fondelot 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Sabillon (Hon)
Canada: Onstad — Yallop, Cocina, Limniatis, Watson, Hooper, Miller, Aunger, Scott (Samuel 70), Bunbury, Peschisolido (Berdusco 60).
Martinique: Lagier — Bellemere, Tinmar, Zaire, Antonin, Coridon, Sophie, Valide, Gertrude, Honore (Fondelot 52), Modestin (Carole 61).

Jul 15 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp B
MEXICO 1 (Delgado o.g. 72)
COSTA RICA 1 (Cayasso 30)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Ramadan (Trin)
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez, Nava, Ramirez Perales, Suarez, Ambriz, R Ramirez, Rodriguez (Coyote 46), Mora (Noriega 59), Salvador, Zaguinho.
Costa Rica: Lonnis — Guthrie, Delgado, Marin, Mata, Peynado, Cayasso, Eric Rodriguez (Solano 68), Morera, Michael Meyers (Roy Meyers 62), Gomez.

SATURDAY, JULY 17

Jul 17 = Dallas — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp A
UNITED STATES 1 (Lalas 29)
HONDURAS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,348. **Ref:** Sawtell (Can)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Kooiman, Clavijo, Lalas, Dooley (Kinnear 36), Harkes, Henderson, Ramos, Wegerle, Wynalda (Moore 86).
Honduras: Cruz — Castro, Martinez, Garay, Rochez, Benedic (Dolmo Flores 81), Fu Lanza, Calix, Pineda, Suazo (Pavon 81), Bennett.

Jul 17 = Dallas — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp A
JAMAICA 1 (Boyd 76)
PANAMA 1 (Mendieta 50 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Marrufo (Mex)
Jamaica: Barrett — Gaynor, Dennis (Jarrett 54), Dixon (Reid 74), Corbett, Sewell, Anglin, Wright, Brown, Davis, Boyd.
Panama: James — Lozada, Mendez (Castillo 79), Delgado, Clark, Diaz (Atencio 65), Julio, Bernal, Piggott, Dely Valdes, Mendieta.

Jul 17 = Dakar — WC African qual
SENEGAL 1 (Souleymane Sane 65)
MOROCCO 3 (Boyboud Abdel Megib 8, Rachid Daoudi 62, Fertout 74)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Jouini (Tun)

Jul 17 = Kampala — African Nations qual
UGANDA 0
NIGERIA 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Ondera (Ken)

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Jul 18 = Guayaquil — WC S America gp B
ECUADOR 0
BRAZIL 0
Att: 40,000.
Ecuador: Espinoza — Coronel, Byron Tenorio, Noriega, Capurro, Carcelen, Carabali (Ivan Hurtado), Maximo Tenorio, Aguinaga, Chala (Eduardo Hurtado), Munoz.
Brazil: Taffarel — Jorginho, Marcio Santos, Valber, Branco, Mauro Silva, Luiz Henrique (Dunga), Rai, Zinho, Careca (Evair), Bebeto.

Jul 18 = Puerto Ordaz — WC S America gp B
VENEZUELA 1 (Palencia 14)
BOLIVIA 7 (Sanchez 27, 39, Ramallo 37, 61, 76, Cristaldo 64, Etcheverry 70)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 12,500. **Ref:** Ulloa (CR)
Venezuela: Gomez — C Garcia, Matias (Dudumel), Etcherrique SMilllo), L Gonzalez — Hernandez, Rodriguez, Palencia — Camacho, Dolgetta, J Garcia.
Bolivia: Rojas — Rimba, Sandy, Borja, Cristaldo — Quinteros, Melgar, Etcheverry, Castillo — Ramallo (Albaro Pena), E Sanchez.

Jul 18 = Abidjan — WC African qual
IVORY COAST 1 (Joel Tiehi 86)
ALGERIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Massemba (Uga)

Jul 18 = Conakry — WC African qual
GUINEA 0
CAMEROON 1 (Ndip Akem 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000.

Jul 18 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp B
MEXICO 8 (J Rodriguez 5, 66, Mora 25, 30, Zaguinho 32, 35, Salvador 83, 87)
Canada 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Dominguez (US)
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez, Suarez, Ramirez Perales, R Ramirez, Mora (Cantu 46), Ambriz, Del Olmo, Rodriguez, Salvador, Zaguinho (Garcia 61).
Canada: Forrest — Watson, Miller, Samuel, Yallop, Dasovic, Aunger, Hooper, Mobilio (Peschisolido 55), Scott (Concina 46), Banbury.

Jul 18 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup gp B
COSTA RICA 3 (Meyers 27, Cayasso 69, 85)
MARTINIQUE 1 (Tinnan 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Majid Jay (US)
Costa Rica: Lonnis — Guthrie, Delgado, Mann, Mata, Cayasso, Parks, Morera, Castro (Rojas 84), Michael Meyers, Roy Meyers (Solano 64).
Martinique: Lagier — Bellemare, Tinmar, Narcisse, Zaire, Valide, Coridon, Gertrude, Modestin, Sophie (Emica 76), Fondelot (Broval 76).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21
Jul 21 = Dallas — CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-final
UNITED STATES 1 (Kooiman 103)
COSTA RICA 0
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-0. **Att:** 14,826. **Ref:** Ramdhan (Trin)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Kooiman, Clavijo (Jones 65), Lalas, Dooley, Henderson, Harkes, Ramos, Wegerle, Wynalda.
Costa Rica: Lonnis — Delgado, Mann, Peynado, Parcs, Morera, Mata, Castro, Gomez (Roy Meyers 57), Cayasso, Michael Meyers.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

Jul 22 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-final
MEXICO 6 (Salvador 9, 18, 35, Mora 14, Zaguinho 50 pen, Ambriz 56)
JAMAICA 1 (Wright 17)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 90,000.
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez, J Ramirez Perales, Suarez, R Ramirez (A Garcia 59), Ambriz, Del Olmo, Mora (Turrubiates 59), A Rodriguez, Salvador, Zaguinho.
Jamaica: Barrett — Gaynor, Sewell, Corbett, Davis, Hewitt (Reid 61), Desmond Smith, Boyd, Wright, Brown, Jarrett (Anthony Smith 61).

SATURDAY, JULY 24

Jul 24 = Lagos — African Nations qual
NIGERIA 6 (Inenga 29, Yekini 33, 44, 64, Ugbade 50, Rufai 90 pen)
ETHIOPIA 0
HT: 3-0.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

Jul 25 = La Paz — WC S America gp B
BOLIVIA 2 (Etcheverry 88, Pena 89)
BRAZIL 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Escobar (Par)
Bolivia: Trucco — Borja, Sandy, Quinteros, Rimba, Melgar, E Sanchez (R Castillo 81), Baldivieso, Cristaldo, Ramallo (A Pena 75), Etcheverry.
Brazil: Taffarel — Cafu, Valber, Marcio Santos, Leonardo, Mauro Silva, Rai (Palhinha 67), Luiz Henrique (Jorginho 40), Zinho, Bebeto, Muller.

Jul 25 = San Cristobal — WC S America gp B
VENEZUELA 0
URUGUAY 1 (Herrera 59)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Torres (Col)
Venezuela: Gomez — Echenausi, Mathias (Mornes 60), Hernandez, Gonzalez, Pelosa, Rodriguez, Filosa, Dolgetta, Stalin Rivas, Hector Rivas.
Uruguay: Siboldi — Herrera (De los Santos 75), D Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera, Moran, Ostolaza, Zalazar, Francescoli, Sosa, Fonseca.

Jul 25 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup Final
MEXICO 4 (Ambriz 11, Armstrong o.g. 30, Zaguinho 69, Cantu 79)
UNITED STATES 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 120,000. **Ref:** Sawtell (Can)
Mexico: Campos — Suarez, Ambriz, J. Ramirez Perales, R. Ramirez, Hernandez, Salvador (Noriega 76), Mora (Cantu 76), Del Olmo, Jorge Rodriguez, Zaguinho.
US: Meola — Armstrong, Doyle, Kooiman, Lalas, Dooley, Harkes, Henderson, Jones (Kinnear 52), Wegerle (Moore 78), Wynalda.

Jul 25 = Mexico City — CONCACAF Gold Cup Third Place play- off
COSTA RICA 1 (Guthrie 11)
JAMAICA 1 (Jarrett 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 100,000.

Jul 25 = Tlemcen — African Nations qual
ALGERIA 4 (Abdelhafid Tassfaout 3, 62, 76, Zekri 32)
SENEGAL 0
HT: 2-0.

Jul 25 = Cotonou — African Nations qual
BENIN 1 (Sacramento 52)
GABON 2 (Nzamba 54, 89)

Jul 25 = Yaoune — African Nations qual
CAMEROON 2
NIGER 0

Jul 25 = Monrovia — African Nations qual
LIBERIA 0
GHANA 2 (Abedi Pele, Yeboah)

Jul 25 = Lilongwe — African Nations qual
MALAWI 0
MOROCCO 2 (Simou 33 pen, Rokbi 75)

Jul 25 = Bamako — African Nations qual
MALI 2 (Traore 39, Modibo 85 pen)
EGYPT 1 (El Kas 40)

Jul 25 = Bellevue —

African Nations qual
MAURITIUS 1 (Ithier 5)
SOUTH AFRICA 3 (Mosimane 31, Augustine 33, Masinga 70)
HT: 1-2.

Jul 25 = Kinshasa — African Nations qual
ZAIRE 7
LESOTHO 0

Jul 25 = Harare — African Nations qual
ZIMBABWE 1 (McKop 27)
ZAMBIA 1 (Kalusha Bwalya 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000.

EUROPEAN UNDER-18 YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Jul 25 = City Ground, Nottingham — Final
ENGLAND 1 (Caskey 79 pen),
TURKEY 0.

MEDITERRANEAN GAMES

Semi-finals: France 0, Turkey 1; Algeria 1, Italy 0. **Third place:** France 2, Italy 1
Final *(Nimes):* Turkey 2, Algeria 0.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Jul 4 *(Cesena):* Italy 0, Norway 1 (Hegstad 76).

WORLD STUDENT GAMES

Jul 17 = Hamilton, Ontario
Women's Final: China 2, US 1.

OTHER MATCHES

Jul 16 *(Duisburg):* MSV 1, Australia 1 (Arnold 66).
Jul 17 *(Miami/Independence Cup):* Colombia 1, Brazil U-21 2.
Jul 21 *(Nijmegen):* NEC 0, Australia 1 (Corica 12).

SOUTH AMERICA

INTERNATIONALS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

In Quito, Ecuador.
ECUADOR 1 (Aviles)
CHILE 2 (Pizarro, Barrera)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 40,000.
Ecuador: Espinosa, Munoz, Tenorio, Capurro (Noriega), Guerrero, Carcelen, Carabali, Quinonez, Chala, Aviles (Fernandez), E. Hurtado.
Chile: Toledo, Mendoza, Vilches, Ramirez, Margas, Pizarro, Leppe, Estay (Mussri), Zambrano (Figueroa), Vega (Guevara), Barrera.
● Chile were faster and showed better combination and were especially dangerous in counter attacks in a warm-up for the Copa America which they could rarely repeat in the actual tournament a few days later. Ecuador, however, better in the second half, could have equalised, but missed Aguinaga who inspired his team in the tournament later.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

In Mexico City, Mexico.
MEXICO 3 (Flores, Garcia Aspe pen, Zaguinho)
PARAGUAY 1 (Struway)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Jose Ramirez (Mex).
Mexico: Campos (A. Garcia), Gutierrez (Hernandez), J. Ramirez, Suares, R. Ramirez (Munoz), Ambriz, Herrera, Garcia Aspe, Flores (Galindo), Sanchez (Campos), Guzman (Zaguinho).
Paraguay: Battaglia, Villamayor (Jara), Ayala, Ramirez, Suarez, Struway, Gamarra (Acuna), Nunez, Monzon (Sanabria), Garay (Ferreira), Sotelo (Cano).
● Mexico were well on top in the first half and missed numerous chances while Paraguay, with little in attack, packed their defence in this final Copa America warm-up for both teams. The match was notable for one thing: Campos played in goal in the first half and then moved to the wing — as he frequently does for his club, UNAM, where he helped to revitalise the attack — and had a hand in two of the goals.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

In Arequipa, Peru.
PERU 3 (Martinez, Maestri 2)
VENEZUELA 1 (Palencia)
HT: 1-0.
Peru: Miranda, Seto, Barco, Reinoso, Olivares, Zegarra, Carranza, Del Solar, Rivera, Maestri, Martinez.
Venezuela: Dudamel, Gomez, Garcia, Gonzalez, Echenausi, Milillo, Hernandez, Palencia, Rodriguez, Dolgetta, Rivas.
● This final warm-up for the Copa America was played at 2,300 metres above sea level for both teams to get used to the altitude and it was a poor game which proved little.

SOUTH AMERICAN GOLD CUP

(for winners of last year's Libertadores, Super, CONMEBOL and Masters Cups)

THURSDAY, JULY 8

Semi-finals — 1st leg

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
BOCA JUNIORS (Arg) 1
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uru).
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Sonora, Simon, Moya, MacAllister, C. Rodriguez, Medero, Marcico, Tapia (Neffa), Martinez, Carranza (Saturno).
Sao Paulo: Rogerio, Vitor, Ronaldo, Lula, Ronaldo Luis, Dinho, Pintado, Toninho Cerezo, Matosas, Juninho, Guilherme.
● Boca Juniors won a poor inaugural match of this new competition with a goal three minutes from the end. Both teams missed their internationals training for the World Cup — Boca two and Sao Paulo six.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
ATLETICO MINEIRO (Bra) 0
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
Ref: Jose Torres (Col)
Atletico won 5-4 on pens.
Atletico: Luiz Enrique, Luciano, Orlando, Ryuler, Paulo Roberto, Valdir, Carlos (Gilson), Ailton, Bira, Reinaldo, Wiver.
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Roberto, Luisinho, Celio Lucio, Genilson, Douglas (Odenilson), Ademir, Boiadeiro, Luis Fernando, Cleisson, Roberto Gaucho.
● The two teams, both from the same town (Belo Horizonte) decided to play only one leg in which there were no goals either in regulation or extra time. This forced a penalty shoot-out during which Mineiro netted all five and Cruzeiro's Cleisson shot the last one wide.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Semi-finals — 2nd leg
In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Matosas)
BOCA JUNIORS (Arg) 0 (S. Martinez)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Aet, Boca won 2-1 on agg.
Sao Paulo: Rogerio, Vitor, Lula, Ronaldo Luis, Matosas, Dinho, Pintado, Toninho Cerezo, Guilherme, Juninho (Cate), Ronaldo.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Sonora, Simon, Moya, MacAllister, C. Rodriguez, Medero, Neffa, Marcico (Cenci), S. Martinez, Carranza (Saturno).
● Sao Paulo, with a virtual reserve team, were on top and scored in the 72nd minute, leaving the aggregate score at 1-1. Then Martinez scored in the first minute of extra time to give Boca a 2-1 aggregate win, this being the first time "sudden death" decided a Cup tie in South American competition.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (CONCACAF/ AMERICAN AIRLINES CUP 1993)

North Central American zone — 1st round — 1st leg

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

SPORTING COLON (Pan) 0
COMUNICACIONES (Guat) 0

1st round — 2nd leg

SUNDAY, June 13

COMUNICACIONES (Guat) 3
SPORTING COLON (Pan) 1
Comunicaciones won 4-1 on agg.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

PLAZA AMADOR (Pan) 2
LUIS A. FIRPO (ES) 2
Luis Angel Firpo won 8-2 on agg.

Second round — 1st leg

SUNDAY, MAY 23

JUVENTUS (Bel) 1
MOTAGUA (Hon) 3

Second round — 2nd leg

THURSDAY, JULY 1

MOTAGUA (Hon) 5
JUVENTUS (Bel) 0
Motagua won 8-1 on agg.

AFRICA

1994 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP

Hosts: Tunisia.
Holders: Ivory Coast.
Both qualify automatically.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

14.06.92	Lesotho v Botswana	0-0
14.06.92	Guinea Bissau v Cape Verde	3-1
28.06.92	Botswana v Lesotho	0-4
	Lesotho won 4-0 on agg	
28.06.92	Cape Verde v Guinea Bissau	0-1
	Guinea Bissau won 4-1 on agg	

GROUP 1
(Winners qualify)

16.08.92	Gabon v Cameroon	0-0
16.08.92	Benin v Niger	1-2
30.08.92	Cameroon v Benin	2-0
30.08.92	Niger v Gabon	1-3
11.04.93	Gabon v Benin	2-0
11.04.93	Niger v Cameroon	0-0
25.04.93	Niger v Benin	4-1
25.04.93	Cameroon v Gabon	0-0
11.07.93	Benin v Cameroon	0-3
11.07.93	Gabon v Niger	3-0
25.07.93	Benin v Gabon	1-2
25.07.93	Cameroon v Niger	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GABON	6	4	2	0	10	2	10
Cameroon	6	3	3	0	7	0	9
Niger	6	2	1	3	7	10	5
Benin	6	0	0	6	3	15	0

GROUP 2
(Winners qualify)

15.08.92	Uganda v Ethiopia	3-1
16.08.92	Sudan v Nigeria	0-0
29.08.92	Nigeria v Uganda	2-0
29.08.92	Ethiopia v Sudan	3-0
11.04.93	Ethiopia v Nigeria	1-0
11.04.93	Sudan v Uganda	1-1
24.04.93	Nigeria v Sudan	4-0
25.04.93	Ethiopia v Uganda	2-2
10.07.93	Sudan v Ethiopia	1-0
17.07.93	Uganda v Nigeria	0-0
24.07.93	Uganda v Sudan	1-0
24.07.93	Nigeria v Ethiopia	6-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	6	3	2	1	12	1	8
Uganda	6	2	3	1	7	6	7
Ethiopia	6	2	1	3	7	12	5
Sudan	6	1	2	3	2	9	4

GROUP 3
(Top two qualify)

16.08.92	Algeria v Guniea Bissau	3-1
29.08.92	Sierra Leone v Algeria	1-0
30.08.92	Senegal v Guinea Bissau	3-0
04.10.92	Guinea Bissau v Sierra Leone	0-3
08.11.92	Sierra Leone v Senegal	2-0
10.01.93	Senegal v Algeria	1-2
24.01.93	Guinea Bissau v Algeria	1-4
09.04.93	Algeria v Sierra Leone	0-0
11.04.93	Guinea Bissau v Senegal	0-3
24.04.93	Sierra Leone v Guinea Bissau	2-0
11.07.93	Senegal v Sierra Leone	1-1
25.07.93	Algeria v Senegal	4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SIERRA LEONE	6	4	2	0	9	1	10
ALGERIA	6	4	1	1	13	4	9
Senegal	6	2	1	3	8	9	5
Guinea Bissau	6	0	0	6	2	18	0

★ ***Togo withdrew.***

GROUP 4
(Winners qualify)

16.08.92	Zaire v Mozambique	2-0
16.08.92	Lesotho v Kenya	2-2
29.08.92	Kenya v Zaire	1-3
30.08.92	Mozambique v Lesotho	3-0
11.04.93	Lesotho v Zaire	1-1
11.04.93	Mozambique v Kenya	0-0
25.04.93	Kenya v Lesotho	3-0
25.04.93	Mozambique v Zaire	0-0
11.07.93	Zaire v Kenya	0-1
11.07.93	Lesotho v Mozambique	1-1
24.07.93	Kenya v Mozambique	4-1
25.07.93	Zaire v Lesotho	7-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAIRE	6	3	2	1	12	2	8
Kenya	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Mozambique	6	1	3	2	5	7	5
Lesotho	6	0	3	3	4	17	3

GROUP 5
(Winners qualify)

16.08.92	Zambia v Mauritius	2-1
16.08.92	Zimbabwe v South Africa	4-1
30.08.92	Mauritius v Zimbabwe	0-1
30.08.92	South Africa v Zambia	0-1
10.04.93	South Africa v Mauritius	0-0
11.04.93	Zambia v Zimbabwe	0-0
24.04.93	South Africa v Zimbabwe	1-1
25.04.93	Mauritius v Zambia	0-3
11.07.93	Zimbabwe v Mauritius	2-0
11.07.93	Zambia v South Africa	3-0
25.07.93	Zimbabwe v Zambia	1-1
25.07.93	Mauritius v South Africa	1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	6	4	2	0	10	2	10
Zimbabwe	6	3	3	0	9	3	9
South Africa	6	1	2	3	5	10	4
Mauritius	6	0	1	5	2	11	1

GROUP 6
(Winners qualify)

16.08.92	Burundi v Congo	1-0
30.08.92	Guinea v Burundi	2-2
11.04.93	Guinea v Congo	1-0
25.04.93	Congo v Burundi	0-0
11.07.93	Burundi v Guinea	2-2
25.07.93	Congo v Guinea	*postponed*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burundi	4	1	3	0	5	4	5
Guinea	3	1	2	0	5	4	4
Congo	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

★ ***Chad withdrew.***

GROUP 7
(Winners qualify)

11.04.93	Ghana v Liberia	1-0
25.07.93	Liberia v Ghana	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GHANA	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Liberia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

★ ***Tanzania & Burkino Faso withdrew.***

GROUP 8
(Top two qualify)

15.08.92	Malawi v Egypt	1-0
29.08.92	Malawi v Mali	1-1
04.10.92	Mali v Morocco	2-1
08.11.92	Morocco v Egypt	0-0
09.04.93	Egypt v Mali	2-1
11.04.93	Morocco v Malawi	0-1
23.04.93	Egypt v Malawi	2-0
25.04.93	Morocco v Mali	1-0
11.07.93	Egypt v Morocco	1-1
11.07.93	Mali v Malawi	2-1
25.07.93	Malawi v Morocco	0-2
25.07.93	Mali v Egypt	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MALI	6	3	1	2	8	7	7
EGYPT	6	2	2	2	6	5	6
Morocco	6	2	1	3	5	4	5
Malawi	6	2	1	3	4	7	5

★ ***Mauritania and Libya withdrew.***

England's Julian Joachim beats a Turkish defender during the European Under-18 Championship Final.

A love affair to remember

Puskas still lives for football

HUNGARY'S football has turned full circle since the 1950s, when Ferenc Puskas and his friends formed one of the best teams of all time.

No sooner had Puskas finally returned home to settle than he was being asked to be caretaker of the national team. In four matches Hungary lost three times (2-0 to Sweden, 3-0 to Russia, 2-0 to Iceland). Poor Puskas did not deserve to be linked to such mediocre play.

Yet it all proved how humble he is and how much he loves the game and his country.

The demands on his time are immense, but he freely gave of it to **BRIAN O'SULLIVAN** in Budapest.

WS: *Why did you accept the temporary position of being national team manager?*
FP: **The Federation didn't have anyone else for the job, and I was working there. It is a very big responsibility for someone to put his hand on the Hungarian national team.**

WS: *You were surely aware, when you took on the position, that too many people thought you could work wonders?*
FP: **I could not do this. I, like Imre Jenei before me, could choose only from the same players. Everyone has problems when you don't have enough good players. When you have enough good players . . . no problems!**

WS: *What were your feelings after the defeat in Iceland?*
FP: **I chose what I thought was my best team, and we were beaten by a better one. We have an old saying here: The ball is round!**

WS: *What are your reflections on your time in charge of the national team, the players, the quality — or lack of quality — in the play?*
FP: **I like football but not the politics of it. I simply wanted to help the national team. After six or seven months the team could win outside the country (4-2 against a Republic of Ireland selection, against whom Hungary fielded a full international team).**

WS: *What was your final message to the players before each match?*
FP: **That the ball must go to feet, play and use the mind, help team-mates, and they must help you when you have the ball. Take it easy, don't put the ball in the air.**

That was then . . . Puskas (10) celebrates after scoring Hungary's third goal during the historic 6-3 thrashing of England at Wembley in 1953 (above), and is congratulated afterwards by Geller (right).

This is now . . . Puskas commands operations on the Hungarian bench (far right).

WS: *And the quality of players at your disposal?*
FP: **I wanted to put together a team but it was not easy. We have some good boys, but not enough.**

WS: *In the First Division and in the national team there are not many goals scored, so how are goal-scoring Hungarians going to be found?*
FP: **Not only Hungarian football has this problem. Most teams in Europe make it very hard to score, and don't score many themselves. My opinion, the truth or not I don't know, is that the football played today has every team not wanting to lose. Most play only two forwards, and one of those comes back to help, so it becomes 4-5-1.**

WS: *Recently Johan Cruyff said in an interview that modern football has too much running.*
FP: **Cruyff says what he wants but he must know why a team is running more than the other one. Forty years ago we were running, too. It is mostly a technical problem, not physical. The players, years ago, knew their job, their movements in the field, they didn't ever play defensive football.**

The beginning of that was in 1962 with Helenio Herrera, when he went to Italy and changed all the movements of the players on the field.

That football is now being played in Hungary and in other European countries. You lose a match and the following week the people don't go to watch.

WS: *What will you do now that your term has expired?*
FP: **I will continue working with boys from ten years onwards, as a director. I want to do some new things to improve the players. There are many, many problems. Let's see what happens.**

WS: *What type of players can be produced in Hungary to make a better team?*
FP: **That is very difficult. Everyone must realise that when many players go to the west, to Belgium, Holland, Spain, the preparation of the national team suffers. Yet it is good for some players to play abroad. But I had to use some for certain positions, which weren't their normal positions. The national team hasn't got any B team, you know. A long time ago we had two or three teams in Hungary. Today we haven't one. That is the reality.**

WS: *Which brings us back to the youths, and your main challenge.*
FP: **If the Government helps the Federation with the young boys perhaps something good will come from this work. I want to make it something special but I need five years for this. And the young boys need equipment. This costs a lot. I don't want money, but we need money to spend on the boys.**

WS: *You are a happy man?*
FP: **Yes. I have my family and my football. That is enough for me.**

WS: *Who was the best player you played against?*
FP: **Very difficult to say, impossible.**

WS: *What was the best match you played in?*
FP: **There were many fine matches, there wasn't one ahead of all the others. England v Hungary 6-3 and 7-1, Hungary 3 Italy 0 in Rome 1953 . . . there were so many.**

Too slow . . . Des Walker brings down Marc Overmars of Holland after being caught for pace.

Lacking logic in a lost cause

HAD I lived in Christchurch I'd have cast my by-election vote for the Sack Graham Taylor Party.

Who else, after all, is worth voting for in this land of political pygmies and maladroit buffoons? But of course we can't get rid of Taylor.

Or rather buffoons of the FA have failed to do so. So on the eve of a season which will decide, probably negatively, England's World Cup fate, we are stuck with a manager whose ridiculous tactics and incomprehensible choices have brought England to the pass they're in today.

Against stupidity, wrote the German poet, Schiller, the gods themselves struggle in vain. And there has been simply no logic to so many of Taylor's recent choices.

Des Walker, for example. I wish him well, I hope that at Hillsborough he picks up the career which promised so much but went so sadly awry in Italy.

Last September, at the Sampdoria training ground, he was exuberant, ebullient, unwontedly talkative, immensely happy to be in Italy, joyously at one with his new, Italian colleagues.

As well adapted and adjusted as Ian Rush had been homesick and disoriented.

Yet Walker did as badly as Rush, and with less excuse.

In the first place, he was a defender, so much easier a task in Italy — or anywhere, for that matter — than to be a striker.

Secondly, Rush had to line up in a Juventus team who had lost Platini and had nobody to give him a decent pass.

Walker had no such problem, even if he seemed to find it hard to hit it off with Pietro Vierchowod, the other, veteran, Samp stopper, while the team did not easily adjust to Sven-Goran Eriksson's new zonal four-in-line defence.

The mystery is how Walker lost his speed; the chief quality on which his game is based.

Trevor Francis is obviously of the school which believes that it was all in the mind, a question of confidence.

Something Walker can recover now he is back in England.

I'm by no means so sure. Pace seems to me essentially a physical thing, the loss of which can lead inevitably to lack of confidence, rather than the other way around.

Whatever, it was Walker's lack of sufficient pace which led, disastrously, to his hauling back Overmars and giving Holland the penalty which enabled them to draw a World Cup match they never should have been allowed to save.

So what did Taylor do? Following, no doubt, the old cliche of at once sending up a fighter pilot who has crashed, he put Walker in again against Poland. And Walker crashed once more. Error after error, which could have given away three goals, rather than the one which Poland scored.

And so to Oslo. Blow me down, Taylor picks Walker AGAIN! And in a daft defence which, with no proper preparation, suddenly features three centre-backs, though no designated sweeper.

What happens? Walker, in a moment of bizarre distraction, gives away the first Norwegian goal.

That should have been that, but it wasn't.

Rather like a jilted lover who keeps fruitlessly coming back to the girl who has rejected him, Taylor in Boston, with England a goal down to the US, takes off a centre-back, and puts Walker on instead!

Not an injured centre back, but a player replaced because Taylor thinks Walker, in his moment of crisis, needs encouragement.

Paul Merson, meanwhile, stays on the bench; and England lose 2-0.

Almost anywhere else on earth that would have been the end of Taylor but alas it wasn't.

He went on with choices

Too slow . . . Nigel Clough falls victim to German defender Thomas Helmer.

which prompted one to amend the old French saying about the heart; Taylor has his reasons that reason takes no account of.

John Barnes, who has so manifestly lost his pace, is used, heaven help us, as a STRIKER; and contrives to give away the ball and the goal which enable Germany to beat us in the Sweatbox, alias the Silverdome.

Nigel Clough is employed in midfield where he looks too slow to catch a bus.

To what purpose? Only Taylor can tell us.

Once upon a time, England didn't even have a team manager, and though the selectors may not even have been any more impressive than the ineffable Peter ("I'm glad we didn't win the World Cup because Robson would have stayed") Swales and co., the record was not so bad.

True, England did not enter any world cups before World War Two, but they kept their unbeaten home record against foreign invaders; and who knows how they might have done had they accepted a late invitation to make up the number in the 1938 tournament?

They had just thrashed Germany 6-3 in Berlin, after being forced to give the Nazi salute, and they went on to win 4-2 in France.

Team managers can do as much harm as good. In my view, Taylor, who should not have been appointed in the first place, is doing dreadful harm.

When he spoke, some time ago in Turkey, of the knives coming for his back, I suggested he would do better to worry about the waters closing over his head.

Gascoigne could get him off the hook; but will he? I do feel sorry for Taylor over this.

Gazza is beyond doubt the only English player with a touch of genius: and look at him!

Both in Poland in Norway he furnished a wretchedly inadequate contribution, and was well on the way to being substituted in Chorzow BEFORE his leg was gashed.

I have great sympathy with Taylor when he implicity criticised Lazio for not monitoring Gazza properly.

They don't.

Dino Zoff, that good, honest, serious fellow, does not begin to understand the strange phenomenon he has in his charge. He's too busy making excuses for Gazza and denying the received English wisdom about our hero.

"He's not my player!" Taylor tells us plaintively; and he isn't. He's Lazio's and they do not begin to know what to do with him. Which is England's loss.

Spotting villains is a game of chance

Highly suspect . . . Marseille v CSKA.

DO NOT shed tears for Marseille, still fewer for Bernard Tapie. Still and all, there's a massive dimension of irony to the whole affair.

When the ever garrulous Sepp Blatter — "Don't just say something, stand there!" — told us that FIFA were always prepared to jump on any kind of transgression, you could hear the raspberry that went up all round the football world.

Leave it out, Sepp, baby! Unless you want me to list the many times when FIFA did nowt.

Over Argentina's six-goal win against Peru in the 1978 World Cup, a win which took them into the World Cup Final. Over the Italy-Cameroon draw in the 1982 World Cup, when Cameroon coach Jean Vincent's wife flew back to France with a bag bulging with foreign currencies.

Two bold Italian journalists blew the whistle on that, but there was never an investigation.

The joke is that Marseille were impaled not on the hook of their highly suspect 6-0 win over CSKA Moscow in the Champions' Cup, but over their alleged attempt to buy a relatively unimportant French League game away to Valenciennes.

Lucky UEFA. Lucky FIFA. The French magistracy did all the dirty work for them.

Inter must be laughing.

Somewhere up in the sky, or down in the depths, their former patron and president, Angelo Moratti, is doubtless having a good old chuckle.

In three successive home semi-final return legs of the Champions' Cup, 1964-65-66, he attempted, through Italo Allodi and the Hungarian fixer Dezso Solti, to bribe the referee. It worked twice, but on the third occasion a brave Hungarian, Gyorgy Vadas, would not fix the Inter v Real Madrid game, and was bombed out of international football in perpetuity as a result.

Chuckling . . . Boniperti.

Mumbling . . . Kostilev.

Giampiero Boniperti must be chuckling, too. He it was, when Juventus were bang to rights over the Lobo-Solti scandal, who told me: "There are those madmen going around." Meaning Solti, who had tried to bribe Lobo, referee of Derby County-Juve.

UEFA did nothing. They had no investigative arm.

Nor have they now. Nor have FIFA. Which is a true scandal.

They've abundant money to put things right.

Now, CSKA have wriggled free. When Gennadi Kostylev, their manager, mumbled some strange accusations that Marseille had offered his men money (did they take it?) and that their tea had been drugged, it looked a clear case of damage limitation.

Then Kostylev withdrew his accusations and UEFA may impugn HIM! Don't make me laugh. But as long as there is no investigative arm, UEFA and FIFA will have to rely on sheer chance to unmask villains.

Which seems to suit them.

The words of a gifted victim

IN New York, staying with my old and talented friend Paul Gardner, I at last caught up with Nick Hornby's much-praised memoir, *Fever Pitch*.

I shared Paul's view that while it had charm, style and originality, there was a law of diminishing returns. The football fan as a kind of gifted victim, living a protracted adolescence.

Hornby is a born writer, an intellectual, a well-read, well-educated man. What's he doing flailing about in the shallows of football fandom?

Or, to vary the metaphor, turning like a weathercock in the wind according to the results of a mere football club?

Perhaps I'd have been more beguiled by the book — and this is possibly an odious comparison — if I hadn't read and so much admired Frederick Exley's *A Fan's Notes*, its American equivalent. Exley, dead not long since, was a psychotic drunk, in and out of marriages, in and out of mental institutions, living and portraying a surreal world of booze, sex, violence.

He knew that being a fan — and he adored the gridiron New York Giants — is a kind of compensation, a protracted malady, a form of surrogate living.

The last of his books, part novel, part autobiography, was almost unreadable, and, had it been written by almost anyone else, I would have thought unpublishable.

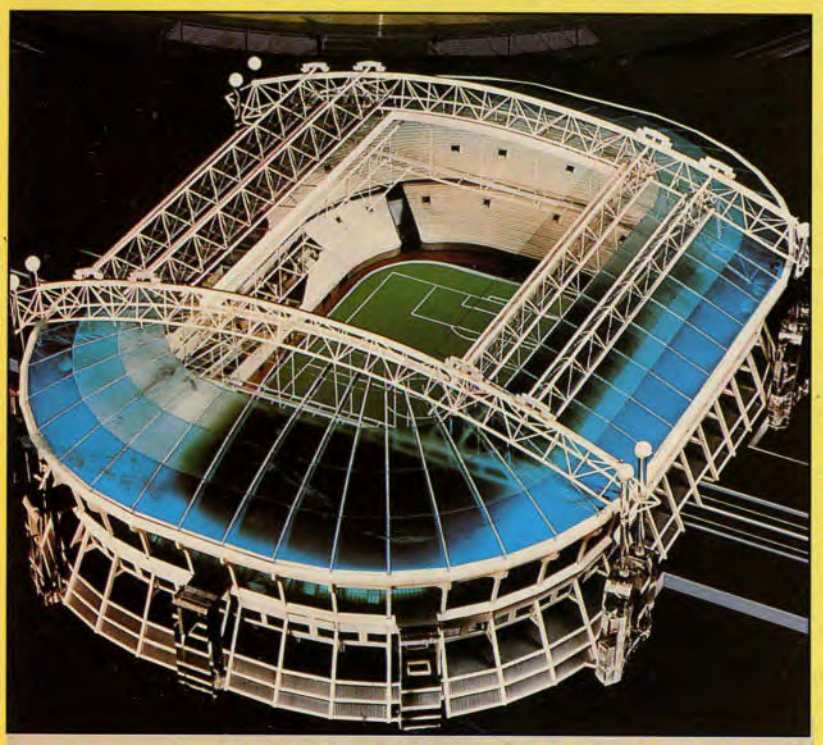
But *A Fan's Notes* is a kind of classic, with a high-octane charge which makes Hornby's book look almost genteel.

Which of course is quite unfair to Hornby.

Good, anyway, to have a book which increases the meagre amount of genuine literature about the game.

A to Z of the WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

SIMON INGLIS, author of *The Football Grounds of Great Britain* and *The Football Grounds of Europe* begins a worldwide journey of World Stadia.



AMSTERDAM

Dazzling hi-tech, multi-purpose stadium proposed for Ajax and national team, in south-east corner of city.

Will seat 50,000 on two levels, with sliding roof over pitch for winter events and rock concerts, video screens, sky-boxes, business seats and Ajax club museum.

Building starts September, expected to be finished mid-1996. Traditionalist beware: **this is the future.**

ARSENAL

Name: Arsenal Stadium, but Highbury to Joe Public.
Capacity: 31,000 all-seated, rising to 39,000 by October.
Opened: 6 September 1913. Redeveloped 1932-36 and 1993-93.
Location: Highbury, North London, opposite to Arsenal Underground station.

● Massive presence amid streets lined by Victorian houses, excellent pubs and cafes nearby. Best football ground in London, but other than occasional Cup semi-finals won't get a sniff of internationals due to Wembley's predominance.

Like all the best English sporting institutions, both admirable and flawed. Famous for its pair of splendid 1930s Art Deco stands, once the finest in Britain, now joined by retro-modern style double-decker North Bank Stand, seating 12,400, completed this month and possibly the best new stand of its era. Ground still oozes tradition, despite loss of popular North Bank terrace, and, at other end, the erection of a monstrous block of executive boxes above former Clock End.

Overall redevelopment costs put at £22m. If the fans can't pay and the team can't play, years of consolidation in prospect, a la 1950s.

World Soccer rating: 7 (out of 10).

ANDERLECHT

Name: Stade Constant Vanden Stock, after RSC's long-serving president, a former player and brewery magnate. But most locals call it Parc Astrid, after the public park next door.
Capacity: 28,065, including 7,000 standing (reduced to 23,265 all-seated for UEFA and international matches).
Opened: 1918, totally redeveloped 1983-92.
Location: Residential area west of city centre, short walk from St Guido metro station. Handy for local bars.

● One of the most lavish grounds in Europe — a mini-Old Trafford with five-star catering and executive suites, but still intimate and atmospheric.

Redevelopment costing over BFI 500 million (£30 million) began in 1983, stand by stand, until last remaining 0-Side terrace replaced in 1992.

Now has a mid-tier level of 15,383 airline-style business seats, plus 39 boxes.

Lacks only parking and capacity for major events. But with Heysel currently in limbo, the big games — and the big money — trot happily to Parc Astrid.

World Soccer rating: 8 (out of 10).

AZTECA

Name: Estadio Azteca.
Capacity: 114,600 (increased from original 107,500).
Opened: May 29 1966, refurbished 1986.
Location: 5 miles south-east of city on ancient lava plain called El Pedregal.

● Best of the biggest purpose-built football venues in the world. No-frills concrete exterior, but stunning inside, with excellent, unrestricted sightlines from all three levels, no pitch-level fences or clutter, no running track, all-round cover for 80 per cent of seats, good circulation and transport links (motorway, underground station, plus parking for 17,000). And well used — not only Mexican national stadium but home to three clubs, Necaxa, Cruz Azul and America.

Fourth club, Atlante, moved out when rent went up in 1985. Centrepiece of 1968 Olympics soccer and both 1970 and 1986 World Cups. Survived 1985 earthquake and Maradona's 1986 "Hand of God". English fans note: the Azteca was built to replace former National Stadium built in 1924 (year after Wembley). Cost in 1966 (when England made handy profit from World Cup) — £4 million. Cost of new national stadium in England now — £50 million minimum.

World Soccer rating: 9 (out of 10).

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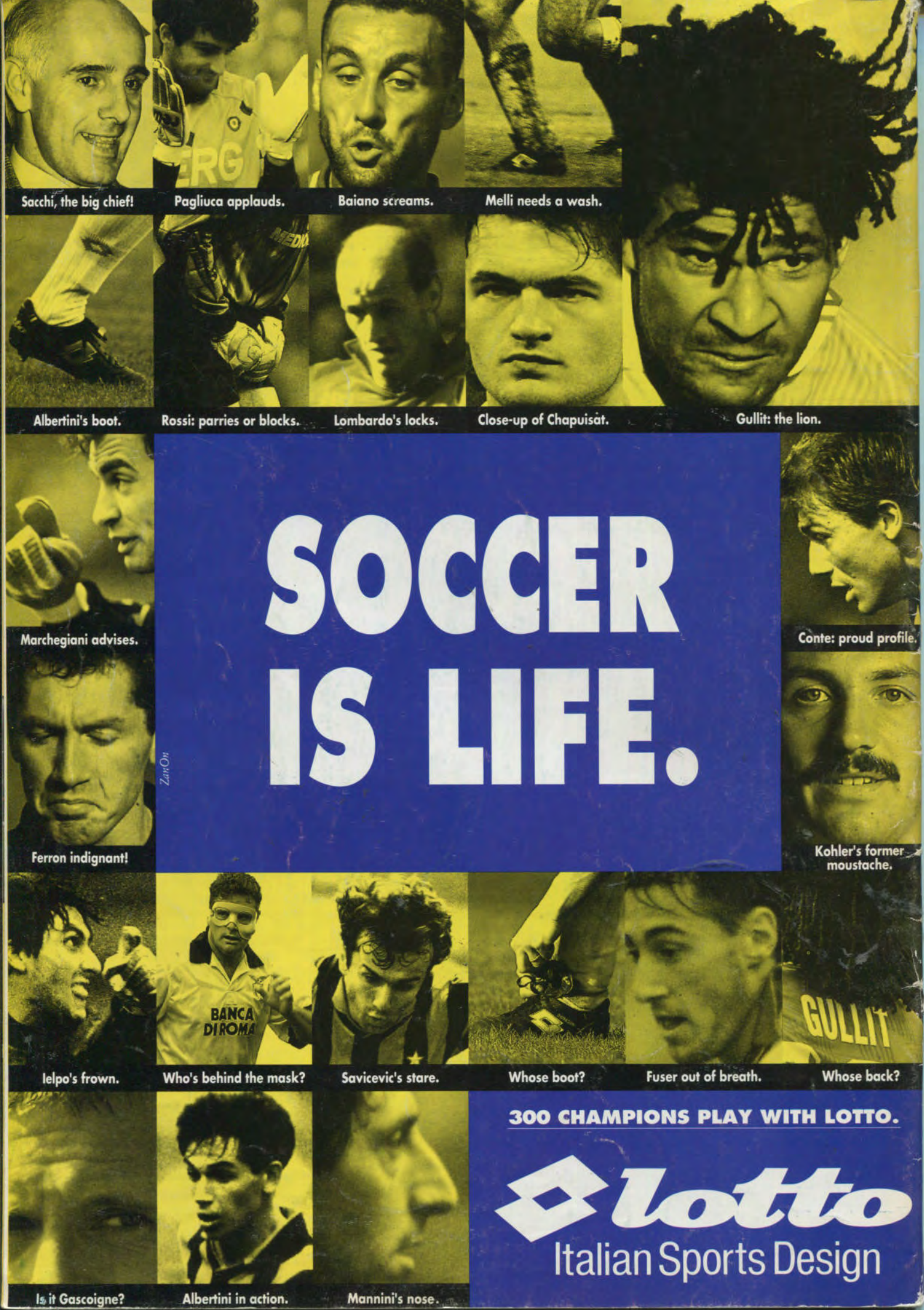
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